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COLLEGE AND SCHOOL NEWS

Back to the class rooms go the following members of the faculty of **Howard University's** College of Liberal Arts: Prof. Sterling A. Brown, Associate Professor of English and recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Writing; Ralph J. Bunch, Professor of Political Science and recipient of a Social Science Research Scholarship for the pursuit of African Studies in Colonial Administration; Prof. William L. Hansberry, Assistant Professor of History, who has been engaged in the study of Anthropology, at the University of Oxford, England; Miss Lois M. Jones, instructor in Art, who has been studying design in Paris, France; Professor Madeline W. Kirkland, Assistant Professor of Home Economics, who has been studying on her doctorate, at the University of Minnesota; Dr. J. Leon Shereshefsky, Professor of Chemistry, who has been in attendance at the symposium of the Faraday Society at Manchester, England, worked in the library of the University College in London for a period of six weeks, and was also engaged in research in the Department of Colloid Science at Cambridge University, England; and Dr. Valaurez B. Spratlin, Professor of Romance Languages, who has been engaged in study and travel in Cuba, Mexico, and the Argentine.

Added to the faculty are: Dr. John L. Jones, instructor in chemistry, a B.S. and M.S. from the University of California, and a Ph.D. from Stanford University; Mrs. Ella Haith Weaver, substitute instructor in English for Mrs. Leona B. Dudley, on sabbatical leave of absence. Mrs. Weaver is A.B. in Drama from Carnegie Institute of Technology and M.A. in Speech from the University of Michigan.

The following members of the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts received Ph.D. degrees at the close of the 1937–38 academic year: Louis A. Hansborough, instructor in Zoology, Harvard University; William A. Hunton, instructor in English, New York University, and John W. Lovell, Jr., assistant professor of English, University of California.

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ton College for Negroes, Houston, Texas, has been named assistant to Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Director of the Division of Negro Affairs, National Youth Administration. A North Carolinian, Mr. Lanier received his early training at the Biddle University Academy (now Johnson C. Smith University), and graduated from Lincoln University (Penna.) in 1922, where he was student assistant in the library and in English. He has taught at Tuskegee Institute and Florida A. & M. College, Tallahassee, Fla. He has a Master's degree from Leland Stanford University in college administration and vocational guidance, and was a Rosenwald Fellow in vocational guidance and placement at Harvard University for one year. He was formerly president of the Florida State Teachers Association and is now president of the National Association of College Deans and Registrars.

The Atlanta School of Social Work becomes affiliated with Atlanta University on September 1, according to an announcement made by President Rufus E. Clement, the university's head, and Forrester B. Washington, director of the school. Students of the School who satisfactorily complete the prescribed two-year course will be awarded the Master of Social Work degree by the University. This change is in accordance with the modern trend toward coordination of educational programs and with the recent agreement of the member schools of the American Association of Schools of Social Work that all member institutions become affiliated with some university. The School will retain its separate corporate existence and financial responsibility but will operate in all essential respects as the School of Social Work of the University, will be called the Atlanta University School of Social Work, and its faculty members will become members of the university faculty. It will operate in accordance with the requirements of the statutes of the University.

Berean School (Philadelphia, Pa.) held its always interesting annual educational symposium at 8:30 p.m. on June 6. The topic was: "What Can Be Done With Aggressors." Mrs. Edwin J. Johnson, President of the Pennsylvania Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, presided. Participants were:

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Howard University has appointed Chauncey Ira Cooper, acting dean of its College of Pharmacy. Born in St. Louis, Mo., Mr. Cooper has a degree from the University of Minnesota, taught Pharmaceutical Chemistry at Meharry Medical College from 1927 to 1932, and has been teaching at Howard since 1935. He has completed all work for a Ph.D.

The Seventh Annual Baptist Conference for Ministers and Christian Workers closed at **Storer College** on July 21. It was the most outstanding conference of its kind held so far. Conferees came from New Jersey, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia and Virginia.

Forty-six graduates received bachelor degrees from West Virginia State College at the close of the summer session on August 12. This makes a total of 142 graduates for the session 1937–1938. Prof. Harry W. Greene, Director of the Department of Education of State College was the principal speaker at the graduation exercises.

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Volume 45, No. 9 *Whole No. 333*

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910. *It is published monthly at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15*c a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November* 2, 1910, *at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March* 3, 1879, *and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*

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THE COVER

On July 28, Captain Wesley Williams, the only Negro officer in the New York fire department, was promoted to the rank of battalion chief at a salary of $5,300 a year. Battalion Chief Williams, who is the son of "Chief" Williams, head of the station ushers at Grand Central Terminal, has been captain of a fire station in downtown New York for many years. He is known in the department as a quiet and studious person and the library in his private quarters in the station contains many volumes on the latest methods of fire fighting as well as a considerable library on philosophy.

NEXT MONTH

Scheduled for October and other fall issues are an article by Norman Macleod on "The Poetry and Argument of Langston Hughes;" a piece, "Travelling with Mr. Jim Crow" by J. L. LeFlore; an article "There Are No More Negroes" by Thomas B. Smith; and "Women of the Cotton Fields" by Elaine Ellis. There will be, also, a new story by Octavia B. Wynbush.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

George Padmore is well known to readers of THE CRISIS for his articles on Ethiopia, Africa and world peace and on the labor troubles in the British West Indies. He lives in London.

Juanita E. Jackson has been a member of the staff of the N.A.A.C.P. since September, 1935, in charge of the work among young people. She has been responsible for the organization of youth councils and college chapters of the association throughout the country and her article is a summary of the growth of that work. Miss Jackson resigned from the association as of August 31 to become the bride of Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., secretary of the Urban League at St. Paul, Minn.

The photograph of Donald Gaines Murray in the August CRISIS was copyrighted by the *Afro-American*.

Labor Trouble in Jamaica

By George Padmore

The dark-skinned citizens of the British Empire in the West Indies—first in Trinidad and now in Jamaica—are being told by British bullets and bayonets that they cannot agitate for relief from slave wages on the sugar plantations

LABOR disturbances have broken out again in the West Indies. This time in Jamaica, the largest and best known of the British islands.

On the eve of the opening of the Empire Exhibition at Glasgow, which Lord Elgin, the president, informed the King and Queen represented a glorious contribution to the peace and prosperity of the peoples of the Empire, the Jamaica police were shooting and bayonetting native workers for daring to demand a living wage.

Four workers were killed. One of them, an old Negro woman, was bayonetted to death when the police attacked a demonstration of natives at Frome, an agricultural community in the County of Westmoreland, on Monday, May 2. Several scores were also wounded. Over a hundred were arrested, and several of them have been convicted and sent to prison for periods varying from one month to 12 months' hard labor. A wave of repression is sweeping the island.

These tragic events marked the climax of a strike declared by plantation laborers employed by the West Indies Sugar Company, owned by Messrs. Tate & Lyle Limited.

For months the agricultural workers of Trelawney were demanding an increase of wages to meet the rise in the cost of living. Last January 1,500 laborers refused to harvest the canes for the wages offered.

Unorganized and without experienced trade union leaders to negotiate with the employers, 600 laborers driven to despair by hunger, marched to the office of Manager Lindo, of the sugar factory on Monday morning. The men were accompanied by their wives and ragged children.

Their spokesman demanded 4s. ($1.00) a day for field laborers and higher rates for skilled artisans such as carpenters and mechanics employed in the factory. Although the company has been making tremendous profits in recent years, the manager refused the demands of the men, offering a flat rate of 2s. (50¢) for unskilled and 3s. 6d. (87¢) for skilled labor. If the men refused to accept these terms, construction work would cease. The crowd was addressed by its leaders and the slogan "A dollar a day or no work" was taken up. The temper of the men was rising. They formed groups, and arming themselves with sticks and tools, attacked the office and beat up the European staff.

All the time the police had been standing by, and on the arrival of a fresh crowd, fixed bayonets were ordered and men were prodded out of the yard. Unarmed, the crowd took to throwing stones, which was followed by a warning from the police. The Riot Act was read and shots were fired over the heads of the strikers. More stones were thrown, and the next volley, lasting for ten minutes, was directed straight at the men, women and children, who by that time numbered over a thousand. Many were wounded, and four workers were killed. One of them, an old Negro woman, was bayonetted to death. The crowd went wild, and rescuing as many of the wounded as they could, they retreated into the fields setting the cane on fire. The manager and his staff fled from the scene, but were later rescued by the police and brought to Kingston in disguise. Among the workers 93 arrests were made. Several of them have been convicted for rioting and sent to prison for periods varying from one to 12 months' hard labor.

Market Day in Jamaica

This disturbance was not an isolated one. Since its occurrence a general strike has taken place in Kingston. Simultaneously with the celebration of Empire Day in England comes the news that the city scavengers had gone on strike and garbage had been left uncollected for days. Factories are closed and shops and offices have been forced to shut. All transport services have ceased, and a dockers' hold-up has paralyzed shipping. The governor of the island, Sir Edward Denham, noted for the ruthless manner in which he crushed the Bathurst workers and put down the seamen's strike when he was Governor of Gambia, is adopting the same firm methods against the Jamaican workers. There have been more killings, more woundings, and more arrests, including two labor leaders, Bustamante and Grant. He has stated that he will use the military, if necessary, to maintain essential services. Meanwhile, the cruiser Ajax, renowned for its similar mission to Trinidad, has been ordered to Jamaica, to intimidate the workers so desperately struggling to force a betterment of their conditions.

Historical Background

As bad as conditions are in Trinidad, in Jamaica they are much worse, for unlike Trinidad with its petroleum and asphalt to supplement agriculture, Jamaica is entirely agrarian. The island's economy is absolutely dependent on the export of bananas, coffee, ground nuts, sugar and its by-product rum, pineapples and other tropical fruits. Furthermore, there is a population problem. In proportion to its size—4,450 square miles, Jamaica is more thickly peopled than many European countries now demanding colonial expansion. It has a population of 1,138,558, about 290 to the square mile.

The majority of the inhabitants are Negroes, the descendants of slaves

brought from Africa. There is also a large colored or half-caste population, which constitutes the upper middle class. The whites, numbering about 20,000, are the real masters of the colony.

Historically speaking, Jamaica is one of the oldest sections of the Empire. Cromwell annexed it from Spain in 1655 and since then it has been the happy hunting ground of British imperialists. First the buccaneers who made Port Royal their headquarters, from where they raided the neighboring French and Spanish colonies, and later the Sugar Kings, who imported the slaves. Not without reason. Winston Churchill, speaking at a banquet given to the Duke of Kent by the West Indian sugar planters at the Dorchester Hotel in London July 20, 1937, reminded his audience:

"The West Indies two hundred years ago bulked very largely in the minds of the people who were making Britain and making the British Empire. Our possession of the West Indies, like that of India—the Colonial Plantations and Developments, as they were then called—gave us the strength, the support, but especially the capital, the wealth, at a time when no other European nation possessed such a reserve, which enabled us to come through the great struggles of the Napoleonic wars, the keen competition of the commerce in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and enabled us not only to acquire this world-wide appendage of possessions which we have, but also to lay the foundations of that commercial and financial leadership which, when the world was young, when everything outside Europe was undeveloped, enabled us to make our great position in the world."

After the emancipation of the slaves in 1834, for which the Jamaica planters received £6,161,927 compensation out of the £20,000,000 voted by Parliament, these landlords started Indian and Chinese coolies to work their plantations.

This system of indentured labor was later discontinued, for during the latter part of the last century and the beginning of the present, the island suffered terribly from hurricanes and earthquakes which ruined many of the plantations. Some of these derelict estates were bought out by the Government to settle refugees upon them. This is how the black peasantry came into being. About 140,000 acres of land were divided into lots of 5 acres and is under peasant cultivation, chiefly bananas, but large-scale agriculture is still predominant. Of the 837,000 acres still in the hands of big proprietors, 40,091 acres represent sugar cane; 6,265 coffee; 40,074 coconuts; 72,909 bananas; 17,774 ground nuts; 964 cocoa; 2,008 sisal. The balance represents fruit and other miscellaneous crops.

The Creole or local born whites and absentee landlords form the plantocracy. Many of the former are also engaged in trade and commerce. They and their agents dominate the economic and political life of the country.

Colonial "Democracy"

Democratic government, as practiced in England, does not obtain in Jamaica, notwithstanding the fact that the island has been a British colony for nearly three centuries. The imperial authority is vested in a Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief, who receives a salary of £5,500 and rules with the aid of a Privy Council and a Legislative Council. The latter is partly elected and partly appointed. The Governor is the President of both Councils. There are 30 members on the Legislative Council; 6 ex-officio, 10 appointed by the Governor, and 14 elected on a property franchise which makes it absolutely impossible for a member of the working class to get on the Council. Out of a population of 1,138,558 there were only 66,000 registered voters in 1937. An elected member must have an income of £200 per annum, which is the lowest in the West Indies. For in Trinidad the requirement is £400 per annum. The result is that the masses of the people, who hardly earn more than 2s. (50¢) a day, have no constitutional means of voicing their grievances. They are the lesser breed without the law. It is therefore not surprising that when they can no longer bear their burdens they break out in violence. "We have spoken in a peaceful way; the Government has apparently deafened its ears; but sometimes the deaf can be made to hear," recently declared the local labor leader in a statement to the British Press.

A special feature of the Jamaica constitution which is considered one of the most liberal in the Colonial Empire, provides that any nine of the elected members can veto any financial measure, while the unanimous vote of the 14 on other matters can be overridden by the ex-officio and nominated members unless the Governor declares that such a decision is of vital importance to the public interests. In other words, the Governor is a hardly disguised dictator.

Social Conditions

Commenting upon the social misery and starvation which abound, a Jamaican correspondent writing in *The Manchester Guardian* of April 8 says: "About 50,000 children are roaming the country parts, not being able to go to school, chiefly because of lack of food and clothing. Things have gone so bad that a short time ago hundreds of ragged men, women and children marched to the doors of the prison in Kingston, pleading for admittance, so that they might get food. . . . There are at least 75,000 unemployed and the majority of those who are employed are very little better off for they work on empty stomachs." This is not surprising, for the cost of living is far above the incomes of the majority of the population.

According to the latest official report on the economic and social conditions issued by the Government of Jamaica in 1936, "during 1935 a four pound loaf of bread cost 1s.4d. (33¢) and a laborer's pay therefore, provided he worked six days a week, was equal to fifteen loaves in Government employ and 13 in private." The report goes on to say that in 1936 "the cost of living in Jamaca although it is lower by 8.2 points than for 1935 (being 121.8 as against 130), is still considerably above prewar level. Taking a 100 as the index figure for the year 1914-15, the index figure for 1935 works out at an average of 121.8 made up as follows:

Foodstuffs, local products (yams and sweet potatoes), 134.4 per cent.; imported articles, 119; clothing 123.4; miscellaneous, 123.1. Total, 365.5. The average is 121.8."

At the present time the prevailing price of foodstuffs in the island is as follows: bread, 8 ounces, 2d; sugar, 2½d to 3d per pound; flour, 1½d to 2d per pound; rice, 1½d to 2d per pound; salmon, 6d a pound; herrings, 3d; cod fish, 4d; mackerel, 3d; salt beef, 6d; salt pork, 9d; condensed milk 4½d to 5d per tin; margarine, 6d a pound. More than 75 per cent. of the people walk about bare-footed. They are too poor to buy even the cheapest kind of footwear.

The Ottawa Agreement has affected the standard of life considerably, because it has driven cheap Japanese goods out of the island, and the masses are unable to buy the more expensive British commodities.

The industrial and agricultural workers are not the only sufferers. High taxation, the rising cost of living, with the corresponding lowering of the price of agricultural products, has hit the peasantry considerably. "Thousands of small properties have been put up for sale for non-payment of taxes. Some have been sold." Those who still manage to hold on to their land are forced to seek work on the large plantations in order to augment their incomes. The small banana growers are completely at the mercy of the foreign monopoly

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Young Colored America Awakes

By Juanita E. Jackson

THE time is February 11, 1938. The crisis is near in the fight for passage of the Wagner-Van Nuys federal anti-lynching bill in the United States senate. In amazing unity and strength, young colored America stages a dramatic National Youth Demonstration Against Lynching, sponsored by the youth councils and college chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

On Chicago's Southside, young people parade with flaming torches on slippery streets, carrying signs which protest the filibuster in the senate. Halting at strategic spots, they hoist an effigy of a lynched victim, and proceed to hold street corner meetings, distributing postcards to passersby.

In New York City, Harlem is the scene of a "No More Lynching Parade," under the leadership of the United Youth Committee Against Lynching. One thousand young people of all races, creeds and political beliefs, march side by side, wearing black armbands as a sign of mourning for the eight victims lynched in 1937. Winding up in a mass meeting, speakers emphasize the fundamental relationship between the struggle for federal anti-lynching legislation and the struggle for the ballot, for equal job opportunities, for educational equality. Youth leaders point out the links between the fight against lynching and the fight against Fascism. White and black youth demonstrate their awareness that the problems of Negro youth, seemingly unique and individual, have their roots in the basic social and economic adjustments which affect all.

Even in the South, in Atlanta, Georgia; St. Petersburg, Florida; Houston, Texas; Louisville, Kentucky; Monroe, Louisiana; Tulsa, Oklahoma; as well as in seventy-two other communities, similar activities are held under the auspices of N.A.A.C.P. youth members, and the support of thousands of citizens, adult and youth, is marshalled.

Although the filibuster was eventually successful in preventing a vote on the anti-lynching bill, this isolated instance of N.A.A.C.P. youth activity in the struggle for the passage of the bill is one of the many indications of the awakening of Negro youth.

Throughout the country, considerable numbers of Negro youth are becoming increasingly conscious of the social upheaval of our times, and their vital interests in the events that are determining their future. With a desperation born of dependency, unfulfillment, and injustice, they are proclaiming their convictions and asserting their ideals, in spite of the warnings of caution from many of their "tired elders."

Deeply dissatisfied with restricted job opportunities, impatient with poor schools, stirred to rebellion by the violations of civil rights and the lynchings which are heaped upon them and their families, they are determining that America can and must mean abundant life, ordered liberty, and the right to pursue happiness with some prospect of attaining it.

Want to be Heard

Knowing the value of organization, Negro youth leaders are seeking channels of action. Innumerable local youth organizations have been formed to meet local youth problems. But these are not enough. Where effective national adult organizations exist, Negro youth are urging a chance to be taken into the council chambers, to be listened to respectfully, to be allowed to make their own contributions, and at the same time to learn from the experiences of their elders.

In just such a spirit in July, 1935, during the 26th annual conference of the N.A.A.C.P. in St. Louis, Missouri, twenty-eight youth members in attendance there presented a resolution at the final business session. They recognized the power and effectiveness of the national fighting machine that is the N.A.A.C.P., and they were asking an opportunity to become a more integral part of and to have a more vital share in the functioning of that organization.

Although the Association in past years had governed the development of junior branches, and while there were a few active units in various parts of the country, there was no coordination of program, no intensive effort to corral the interest of youth, because of the limitation of staff and finances.

In response to this petition, the national board of directors of the Association in March, 1936, approved a tentative plan of reorganization of the youth work. This provided for the scrapping of junior branches and the old age limits of 14 to 21 years for youth members; the organization of junior youth councils (12 to 15 years); youth councils (16 to 25 years); and college chapters; and the creation of a specific youth program within the scope of the objectives and program of the Association. With this, the youth movement in the N.A.A.C.P.

(*Continued on page* 307)

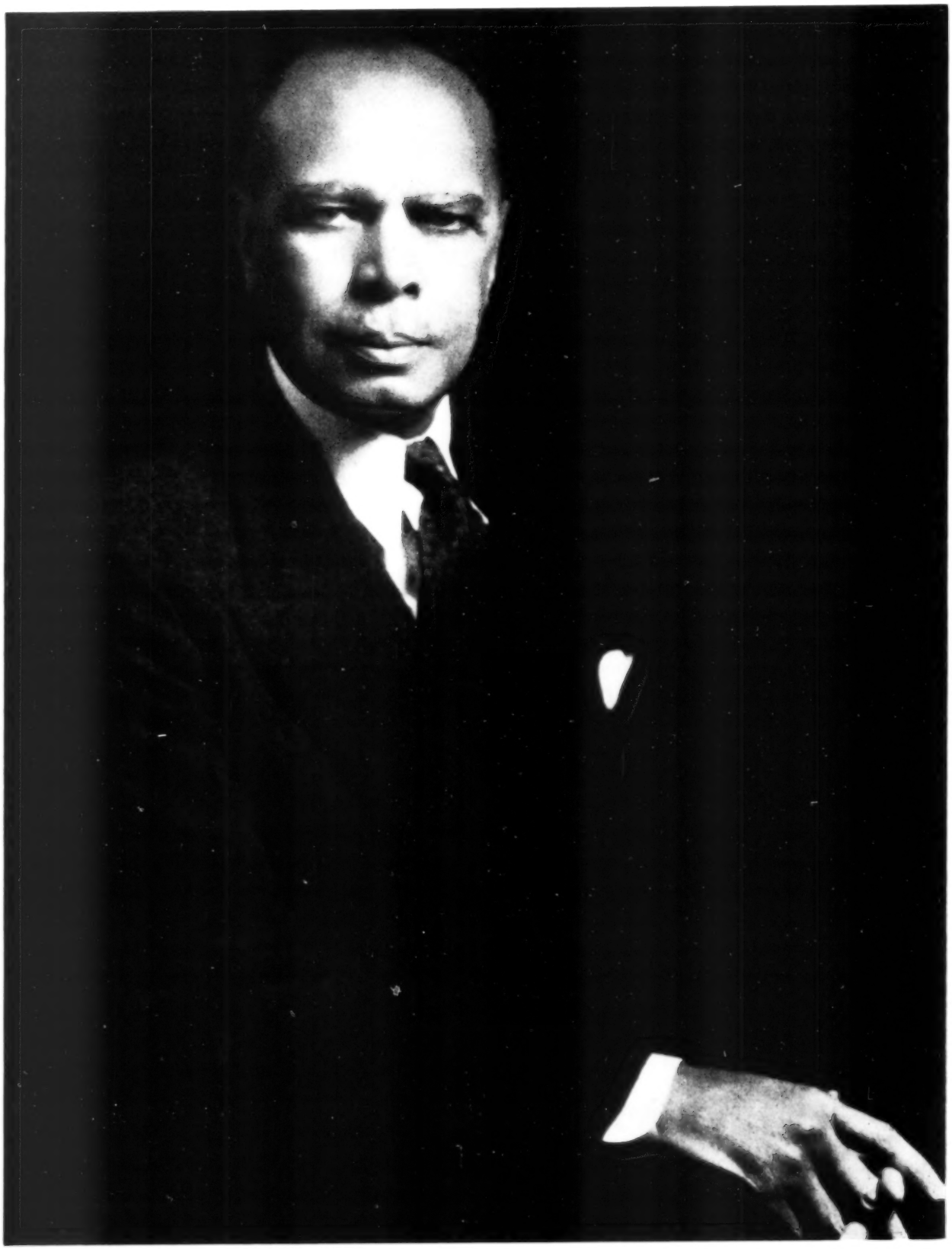
Malcolm Baxter, president, Newark, N. J., youth council

Gloster B. Current, president, Detroit, Mich., youth council

Vida L. Milton, president, Oklahoma youth conference

Floyd Haynes, president, Ohio youth conference

K. Leroy Irvis president, New York youth conference



1871—JAMES WELDON JOHNSON—1938

James Weldon Johnson

(Three Sonnets)

By J. HARVEY L. BAXTER

He was not willed to lute of Orpheus
Nor laureates from kings of royalty,
Nor was it his to wear the sardius
Or lyric power of the Sapphric key.
Yet, oft he struck the universal note
Within his dreams; his soul's imagining;
For like an ancient seer, or John he wrote
In fiery verves of genius, trumpeting.

What urge almighty gave this poet song
To sing a litany, an ode, or dirge,
To lilt these twany strands, these seas along
In travail-trials, breaking surge on surge?
If it was God, I marvel of the way
He worked His image in this piece of clay.

2.

He stood aloof to every sordid thing
What ignis-fatuus beguiled his eye
While walking where the noblest spirits sing
Off in the wilderness, or fairest sky?
No siren notes defiled his holy lyre
Or pled their wishes in his melodies—
His wings out-spreaded, soaring up, afar;
The very world applauding, and the seas.

Amid old testy bigotries he rose
And wrestled with gray orders at their base
Up, charging soldierly, amid his foes
What if they were of different hair and face.
He met the Devil in the Devil's track
And bearded tragedies and swept them back!

3.

He brought a depth, a culture to our arts
Unmatched, unequaled, and unknown before—
Refining as with fire the baser parts
Of songs that woke a nation to encore.
There was a mellow chorus in his voice
A dashing chivalry of noble mien
A soul to weep, to battle, to rejoice
What though within the distance, but the *DREAM*.

Adieu, Oh, statist, poet, diplomat,
Arch dean and mighty Nestor of the press—
Intrepid leader, comrade, DEMOCRAT,
Lode-Star and grand Cynosure of the West.
Down with the bier, invoke the requiem
Degree his relics with a diadem!

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON was born in Jacksonville, Florida, on June 17, 1871, the son of James and Helen Louise (Dillette) Johnson. He was an A.B. (1894) and A.M. (1904), Atlanta University; a Litt. D. (1917), Talladega College, and Howard University (1923). He attended Columbia University for three years.

He married Grace Nail of New York City on February 3, 1910.

For several years he was principal of the colored high school in Jacksonville, Fla. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1897, and practiced in Jacksonville.

In 1901 he removed to New York City to collaborate with his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, in writing for the light opera stage. The brothers met with success in a number of musical plays and light operas and songs, among the latter being "Under the Bamboo Tree", "Congo Love Song", "Maiden With the Dreamy Eyes", "O, Didn't He Ramble", "Louisiana Lize", and a score of others. Altogether they collaborated on more than two hundred songs. During this period they rewrote Drury Lane productions brought from London and produced in New York. They also wrote the plays which opened the New Amsterdam Theatre, the Liberty Theatre and the New Amsterdam Roof Garden.

He wrote the English version of the libretto to the grand opera, "Goyescas", which was produced at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York City, in 1915. "The Creation", a Negro folk poem written by him and set to music by a well known composer, was given in New York in 1926 at a Chamber Concert in Town Hall with Serge Koussevitzky, leader of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, as conductor. It had previously been produced in Vienna, Austria.

He was Chairman of the House Committee of the Colored Republican Club of New York City from 1903 to 1905, and President of the Club from 1905 to 1906. In the latter year he was appointed United States consul at Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, where he served until 1909 when he was transferred to a similar post at Corinto, Nicaragua, serving during the revolution which overthrew Zelaya, and during the abortive revolution against Diaz.

He was field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 1916 to 1920, and secretary from 1920 to 1930. His outstanding service during this period was the first statistical analysis of lynching, the exposure of U. S. Marine terrorism and oppression in Haiti, the fight for the Houston Martyrs (soldiers of the 24th U. S. Infantry sentenced to death or life imprisonment for the 1917 uprising in Houston), and the memorable Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill fight.

Upon his resignation as Secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., in 1930, he became professor of creative literature at Fisk University. In 1934 he became visiting professor of creative literature at New York University.

He was a director of the American Fund for Public Service, a member of the Ethical Society, a trustee of Atlanta University. He was awarded the Springarn Medal in 1925, and the gold medal in the Second Harmon Awards in 1927, for "God's Trombones".

He was the author of The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man, 1912, republished, 1927; Fifty years and Other Poems, 1917; Self-Determining Haiti, 1920; The Book of American Negro Poetry, 1921; The Book of American Negro Spirituals, 1925; Second Book of Spirituals, 1926; God's Trombones, 1927; Black Manhattan, 1930; St. Peter Relates an Incident of the Resurrection Day, 1930; Along This Way (an autobiography), 1933; Negro Americans, What Now?, 1934. He contributed to the *Century*, *Harper's*, American *Mercury*, the *Crisis*, and to the revised edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, etc.

In Memoriam

Addresses delivered in memory of James Weldon Johnson

By Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia

of New York, N. Y.

Broadcast over Station WNYC July 14, 1938, at 8:00 p.m.

GREATNESS in man is a quality that does not know the boundaries of race or creed. Where it descends, its blessings reach all. That is why the whole nation mourns the tragic death of James Weldon Johnson.

I knew James Weldon Johnson, and I am sure that you can all join with me in saying "There was a gentle soul."

A diplomat, a poet, a teacher, an administrator, a lawyer, composer, novelist, editor, a fighter for the rights of his people and the rights of all, he played a major part in the historic developments of his span of life.

To James Weldon Johnson must go a large part of the credit for the growth and recognition of Negro culture in the United States. It was he who brought about the breaking down of barriers between white and Negro writers, singers, painters and others. I need not go into the details of his life. You know them too well.

His people had been emancipated from the bondage of slavery when he was born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1871, but they had entered a new bondage. They had been enshackled by the manacles of bigotry.

James Weldon Johnson led the way in the battle for the second emancipation—the freeing of the Negro from those manacles.

He was an artist but he believed in participation in the struggles of life, and not only believed it, but he acted it out and led his own people in that struggle.

His many faceted genius produced a wide variety of fine things. One of these is a long-remembered song. James Weldon Johnson wrote "Under the Bamboo Tree" but he didn't lie lazily under it. He went out and worked and fought. He won respect and admiration in every field of endeavor in which he engaged.

His poetry will form an everlasting monument to his genius and to the creative capacity of the Negro people. He set down in moving and beautiful verse the traditions and folklore of his race. He was truly a national poet.

James Weldon Johnson wrote some of the most popular songs of the 1900's. He made a brilliant success on Broadway. But he has also written other songs that have lived. His "Lift Every Voice and Sing" stands forth as a permanent inspiration throughout the world.

As executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., he was in the forefront of the battle for the Negro in every part of the United States. His work will always stand as a true symbol of man's fight against prejudice, and for the eternal values of truth, justice and equity.

In the final paragraph of his last book, "Negro Americans, What Now?" published in 1934, he tells us his philosophy:—

"The pledge to myself which I have endeavored to keep through the greater part of my life is:

"I will not allow one prejudiced person or one million or one hundred million to blight my life. I will not let prejudice or any of its attendant humiliations and injustices bear me down to spiritual defeat. My inner life is mine, and I shall defend and maintain its integrity against all the forces of hell."—so spoke Johnson.

There is grandeur in this brief and poignant declaration—the grandeur and bravery of an oppressed people—but it is an expression too of a courageous and hopeful people.

It stands out as a challenge to the nation, and to the world.

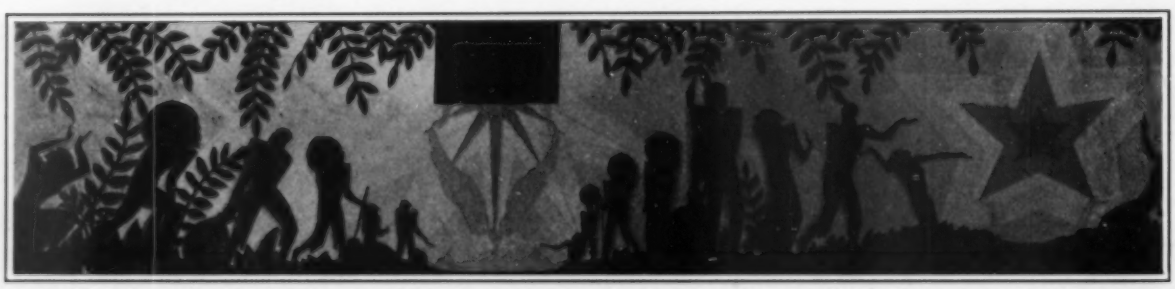
By Colonel J. E. Spingarn

President of the N.A.A.C.P.

Broadcast over Station WNYC, July 14, 1938, at 8:00 p.m.

I FIRST met James Weldon Johnson at a meeting in a church in Harlem twenty-five years ago. He had recently returned from Nicaragua, and his novel, "The Auto-biography of an Ex-Colored Man," was winning wide attention. He was already forty-one or two. But he looked ten years younger, and the light of youth, intelligence, and energy shone from his eyes; these things and something besides that marked him as a man for whom fate had great things in store. I took to him instantly, and there and then decided that we in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People needed him at our side. Two or three years later when we were looking for a field secretary I persuaded the Board of Directors to appoint him to the place, and he soon became secretary of the Association and its directing force.

Even then he had already had a most unusual career. Born in Jacksonville, and educated at Atlanta University, he became principal of Jacksonville high school and a member of the Florida bar. Then he had come North to collaborate with his brother Rosamond in writing for the light opera stage. During the first ten years of this century these two brothers were the acknowledged leaders of American popular song. "The Congo Love Song," "Didn't he Ramble," "The Maiden with the Dreamy Eyes," "Under the Bamboo Tree," and a hundred other songs were on the lips of almost every American and were heard around the world. Then Theodore Roosevelt appointed him to a consular post, first in Venezuela, and later in Nicaragua, where he served during two revolutions with such ability, courage, and tact that even



Aaron Douglas mural in Fisk university library

white southerners were glad to accept him as the official representative of his country.

Shortly afterwards he joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Up to that time the Association seemed to the public not an organization, but a magazine. The genius of Dr. DuBois had made our periodical, THE CRISIS, the voice of the American Negro, and whenever anyone thought of our Association he thought of THE CRISIS and Dr. DuBois. We had already accomplished other work of real importance, but it had hardly won for us national attention, or perhaps I should say that it was submerged in the light of Dr. DuBois' fame. It was James Weldon Johnson who gave the Association its national prestige and made it bulk even larger in the public eye than the magazine we published. It was he who bore the burden of the fight for the Dyer Anti-lynching bill in 1921 and 1922; it was he who pushed it through the House of Representatives and almost over-came the filibuster in the Senate that finally defeated it. This poet, this song-writer, this novelist, this teacher, became the man of action who carried through the ideas that Dr. DuBois, the thinker, had dreamt and written about. He became a great American statesman, as great a statesman and as rich in service to his country and the world as any of the men who sat in the United States Senate or in the cabinets of presidents during his ten years as secretary. For he was in the forefront of the battle to save democracy, a pioneer in that struggle which all men are at last cognizant of, a struggle that has its acid test in the treatment we accord to our most oppressed minority.

The task of a secretary of our Association is so overwhelming that it has destroyed the health or peace of mind of several incumbents; and illness at last forced James Weldon Johnson to seek the quieter life of a professor of creative literature at Fisk University and a visiting professor at New York University. But even in the stress of his work with us he found time to compile an anthology of American Negro Poetry, to edit the Negro spirituals, to write a history of the Negro in New York City, and above all, to write the poems included in the extraordinary volume called, "God's Trombones." A few of his earlier and more conventional poems express aspirations deep in the heart of the American Negro and will always have an historical as well as poetic interest. But in "God's Trombones" he made modern and universal an imperishable mood of a great race. These poems purport to be the sermons of an old-time Negro preacher, but they revive all that the Negro race has expressed in sermon, legend, folktale, and the great spirituals. Life and death, love and longing, sorrow and happiness, as we find them lifted out of dialect into racy American speech in these poems, belong to humanity and not to any one race. After he retired from the National Association he found time to write his autobiography, "Along This Way", which deserves a place in the library of every American and is one of the most interesting, and at moments one of the most exciting, autobiographies of our time.

James Weldon Johnson was my friend for twenty-five years, and there never was a time in all those years when he did not have the bearing and demeanor that we instinctively associate with the great men of the world. It was not merely poise, sound judgment, intelligence, self-restraint, courtesy, though all of these qualities were his in full measure. It was something beyond these, some inner reserve of power that we call genius for lack of a better word.

In Memory of James Weldon Johnson

By ADA SCOTT DUNBAR

"Untimely death." I hear them say.
"No, no," he would reply, "I kept the pace.
I lived my life, I played my part;
I sent a throb to every heart;
With verse and prose, that did disclose
The burdens of my race.

"Untimely? Why for three score years
I've worked, and know my efforts gave a ring
For fairness, justice, and a chance
That my group through some circumstance;
Could thrive and hope, with others cope,
And lift its voice to sing.

"Untimely, No, but those who died
From hands of mobs who hung them to a tree.
Whose bodies mutilated, burned,
By terror-striking fiends, who yearn
To trample men, and try again
To shame democracy.

"Untimely? No, God knows what's best.
He sent Death on a hurried call, said He,
'Quickly snatch his soul and bring,
Don't let him feel thy dreaded sting
He did his best. Now he will rest
Where there is harmony.'

"My brother, fight, and trust, and pray.
Your burdens will be lifted in His time.
Don't stop to ask the Maker how;
But humbly bear oppression now
Take courage yet, lest we forget
His promises sublime."

God of all races, give us men.
Men gifted with strong minds that are sincere.
To soothe depressions of the mind;
Give words that lift, and songs that find
A faith still deep, to make us keep
Undaunted year by year.

The most prejudiced of men melted under the influence of this power whenever it had time and opportunity to operate. He lived what he himself urged in his poem, "Fifty Years":

"No! Stand erect and without fear,
And for our foes let this suffice:
We've bought a rightful sonship here,
And we have more than paid the price!"

He stood erect and without fear; and one of the finest tributes to him (a tribute that came direct to me) was uttered by a young woman of his own race, who said: "He climbed high, and he lifted all of us with him."

By Walter White

Secretary of the N.A.A.C.P.

Broadcast over Station WNYC, July 14, 1938, at 8:45 p.m.

IT is an incautious thing, perhaps, to attempt over so impersonal a medium as the radio to speak of the inner and more spiritual qualities of a friend. On this occasion I dare it only because the great American we honor tonight lived so full and useful a life—came into personal contact, and through his prose and poetry, with so many of you who listen in at this moment of tribute—that I somehow feel that you will know what I mean.

To few men of our time was given the privilege of creating and living a philosophy of life such as would merit the tribute the distinguished critic, Carl Van Doren, paid Mr. Johnson's "Along This Way" when he called it a book any man would have been proud to have written about a life any man would have been proud to have lived.

Scholar, diplomat, militant champion of justice not only for his own people, but for all oppressed groups, writer with his distinguished brother of songs which the whole world has sung and yet sings, ambassador of understanding between white and Negro Americans, master of an exquisite prose style—these are but a few of the achievements Mr. Johnson crowded into sixty-seven short years. But Mayor La Guardia and Mr. Spingarn will speak of Mr. Johnson's material contributions to American civilization. I want to pay tribute to him as an individual, and as a friend.

Though I was in almost daily association with him for more than two decades, it took sudden and tragic death to make me realize how far-reaching was the influence of Mr. Johnson upon those with whom he came into contact.

On Tuesday I sat at luncheon with the dean of a great American university

who was one of Mr. Johnson's closest friends. As we talked of our friend the eyes of this great educator unashamedly filled with tears as he told of what Mr. Johnson's friendship, his wise counsel when faced with difficult problems, his understanding, had meant to him.

A few minutes later I was told of the tribute of another man who had not the public position or education of the university dean. It was instead the comment of a humble member of Mr. Johnson's own race. The tribute he voiced might well serve as an epitaph: "Mr. Johnson climbed very high and he lifted us with him."

To those of us who knew and worked with Mr. Johnson, one characteristic stood out above all others. Though wise and sometimes cautious in speech and action, never once did he let any compromise or weakness enter into his thought or action on any problem great or small. With superb and unremitting skill he fought valiantly not only against the lynching, disfranchisement and proscription of his own people, but he fought also to save those who practiced oppression from the corrosive effect of the things which they did to others. I remember well a great meeting in Carnegie Hall when Mr. Johnson declared the fight against lynching to be a struggle "to save black men's bodies and white men's souls." I can think of no better expression of Mr. Johnson's philosophy nor a better injunction to America and to the world during these days when racial hatreds are being fanned into flame for sinister reasons than to quote to you Mr. Johnson's poem, "To America:"

"How would you have us, as we are?
Or sinking 'neath the load we bear?
Our eyes fixed forward on a star?
Or gazing empty at despair?

"Rising or falling? Men or things?
With dragging pace or footsteps fleet?
Strong willing sinews in your wings?
Or tightening chains about your feet?"

A great human being has been taken from us but we should not mourn his passing but be grateful that he lived.

By William Pickens

Director of Branches of the N.A.A.C.P.

Broadcast over Station WEVD, July 7, 1938

THE life of James Weldon Johnson, which closed at the age of 67 years on the morning of June 26, 1938, in tragic death at a railway crossing in Maine, is itself an answer to most of the questions posed in America about the colored people:

He was a sane, conservative and aggressive American citizen,—although he was from the hindered and handicapped race of his country. He was an educator, an artist, a writer of stories, a poet, a lawyer, an active politician, an office holder, and a propagandist. In his song-writing days he wrote words which have become a national song for his race and which is more widely known among the common people of color than anything else he has done. Its words begin: "Lift every voice and sing." It is a song of triumph over obstacles which would serve as a national hymn for all of his fellow countrymen, irrespective of their racial connections. The song itself mentions no race, although it was written out of the experiences of the Negro race in America. It is more of a universal song than any of our other national songs. Perhaps in the future men will forget that it was written by an American Negro and all Americans will sing it as a hymn of their racial history.

James Weldon Johnson was born in the state of Florida, and educated first in the segregated schools of the South. He was a product of the old Atlanta University, founded by Congregational missionary teachers in Georgia. Later he studied in northern schools. He became the principal of the colored high school in Jacksonville, Fla., and was admitted to practice law in that state. After one has all the necessary qualities for greatness of life and service, he still must have the opportunity. Few colored Americans who remain in the South can rise above the dead level set by southern society and custom: if Frederick Douglass, greatest colored American of the 19th century and one of the great men of American history, had remained in Maryland, he would have died a slave. No part of America offers a fair field for the fullest development of the genius of a black man, but there are some parts in which it is possible, and some parts in which it is practically impossible. Even in athletics, if Jesse Owens or Joe Louis had remained in their native southern states, they would have lived and died unknown. Booker T. Washington rose up in the South; but his most notable achievements were connected with influences outside of the section in which he was born and which offered him a field of work and service. He built Tuskegee in the South, but he never could have built it of the South alone.

So James Weldon Johnson, educator, writer and poet, and his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, musician and composer, did what everybody was telling southern Negroes not to do: They came North to find a less impossible field for the development of their art and the uses of their talents. In the day in which Negroes were admitted to the theatres simply as black-faced comedians, these brothers organized many musical comedies and other plays: "Under the Bamboo Tree," "Congo Love Song," "Louisiana Lize" and others. By 1903 the talents and tastes of James Weldon Johnson led him into politics. He joined a local political club that was affiliated with the dominant political party, and in 1906 President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him U. S. Consul at Puerto Cabello, in Venezuela, and in 1909 at Corinto in Nicaragua. At the close of Roosevelt's administration he returned to New York City and took up theatrical and literary work, being now able to translate Spanish productions into English.

He struggled along in the poor business of entertainment, song writing and contributions to a New York Negro paper until he was elected as field secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (1917). Up until 1920 the executive secretaries of the Association had been white persons, but in that year the last white secretary, Mr. John Shillady, who

(*Continued on page* 308)

Aaron Douglas mural in Fisk university library

The Nation Pays Tribute

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON, dead in a tragic accident on June 26 last, stood in the great succession of Negro leaders in this country. Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, William E. Burghardt DuBois, and James Weldon Johnson—this seems to us to be the historic ranking to date. Of Mr. Johnson it is difficult to say in which of many fields of high achievement and noble service he excelled . . . To those privileged to know Mr. Johnson, however, either as friend or associate, the man himself was far more notable, and now memorable, than the teacher, or poet, or executive. A gentleman of the highest order of character and culture, he represented a combination of gentleness and power, sweetness and strength, inward spiritual grace and outward practical action, which was like a chord of music, or a perfect poetic cadence. As he grew older, he ripened in wisdom and insight, but remained still youthful in his quick feeling of indignation over wrong and instant courage of word and deed. Moving easily and happily among his white friends, he maintained closest touch and sympathy with the masses of his black brethren struggling painfully but ever happily for justice and freedom. James Weldon Johnson was a great and a good man. Alas, the tragedy that ended so cruelly his blessed days on earth!

JOHN HAYNES HOLMES
Unity

. . . As a member or an official of the Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, he was an indefatigable worker for the betterment of his race. For outstanding public service to them he stood far in the van . . . He was a remarkable man and he had a remarkable career. His death is a loss to both the white people and the Negroes.

Rome, N. Y., *Sentinel*

Few lives are so rich in various experience and accomplishment as his, so tragically ended . . . His efforts to end lynching—once he came near being lynched—and his unflagging zeal as an officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are enough to maintain his memory.

But it is as the writer and the educator and fosterer of writers that he was most noteworthy . . . There were roots of bitterness in Johnson, but he had good reason for gratification and pride. Before his eyes and in the course of a few years he saw men and women of his race distinguish themselves in all the arts. Actors, singers, musicians, dancers, painters, sculptors, poets, novelists, won their way to fame. All the world danced to Negro music. Johnson was professor of creative literature at Fisk university. He had the good fortune to see a far broader creative movement.

New York *Times*

. . . For more than 40 years he had been one of the foremost leaders of his people in this country, and a public personage of high rank in the fields of music, literature, journalism, education, jurisprudence, and public affairs in general, without respect to strictly racial issues . . .

As the general result of his manifold services, the character of the race problem in America has been fundamentally, and do doubt permanently altered—altered, on the whole, to the great advantage of all who are necessarily concerned with it.

Waterbury, Conn., *American*

"In the death of Mr. Johnson, the world has lost a great mind. I was very much shocked at the manner in which he met his end. My sympathies are extended to his widow."

COL. THEODORE ROOSEVELT, JR.

"The death of Dr. James Weldon Johnson is extremely unfortunate at this time. His contributions to the culture of America were second only to his contribution to a better understanding between all men. Here at New York University, where he was visiting professor for four years, he impressed us with his kindness, compassion and unending effort to make this a better world. As a public servant, educator and author, he has left much that will never die."

DEAN E. GEORGE PAYNE,
School of Education,
New York University

"One of the greatest of Americans and one of the greatest contributors to American life and civilization that has ever existed."

GENE BUCK, President
American Society of Composers
Authors and Publishers

James Weldon Johnson will have an enduring place in literature as one of America's best prose writers and truly original poets. In history he will be remembered as one of the most valuable citizens of his time. As an advocate of Negro rights, he stiffened the backbone of his people and sharpened the conscience of the white race . . .

No American who has searched his conscience on the subject can deny Mr. Johnson's conclusion that "In large measure the race question involves the saving of black America's body and white America's soul."

LESLIE CHRISMER "Books and Authors"
Chester, Pa., *Times*

. . . Negroes should join again in a mass demonstration for one of their own who could not fight with his fists or sprint or leap. But this man did more for his race than any athlete, however great, could possibly accomplish. James Weldon Johnson died on Sunday in Maine. He was killed in an auto accident. He was slight in stature, but here was the greatest fighter of them all . . .

When Jim was a Broadway songwriter he never let success go to his head, and when he crusaded for the national association he still kept his feet on the ground. . . . Jim was at his best in making flank rather than frontal attacks on prejudice. He did do both, but he was most useful in doing his work in his own way. He never surrendered anything of his high aspirations and ideals.

He had charm and humor, and in his own personality and life he did a great deal to brush aside the words and thoughts of those who would minimize the achievements and the potentialities of the Negro race. . . .

HEYWOOD BROUN, "It Seems to Me"
Scripps-Howard Newspapers

. . . Mr. Johnson's name became a by-word in every Negro home when he led the first big crusade against the lynching evil as executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. In contradiction to the argument of the South that rape was justifiable because it was only used in cases where white women had been raped by Negroes, he unearthed proof to show over fifty Negro women and many whites had been victims.

Bluefield, W. Va., *The Telegraph*

James Weldon Johnson was one of the most notable Negroes in American history. Talented and versatile, possessing creative power as well as the ability to work hard and steadily, he was an educator and a diplomat as well as an

author. And he was a distinguished success in all three fields as well as one of the most understanding interpreters of the problems of his race. . . .

But the work he did was by no means superior to the sort of man he was. A credit to his country and a credit to his race—James Weldon Johnson.

Ft. Wayne, Ind., *The Gazette*

The Negro in America has had few more effective ambassadors to his fellow Americans than James Weldon Johnson. . . . As head of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, he worked for his race along sensible lines, recognizing the limitations, insisting upon the possibilities.

He was, of course, a crusader, but he brought to that calling a record of achievement. Perhaps more than any other modern Negro he is responsible for starting the flood of Negro self-expression of the last few years. . . .

But James Weldon Johnson the passionate crusader would not have been half so effective had not he been preceded and accompanied by James Weldon Johnson the song writer, book writer and tireless worker in facts and statistics. His life, perhaps, is a bench mark against which future Negro progress and advancement may be measured for some time to come.

Baltimore, Md., *The Morning Sun*

. . . Born in Florida, he won a degree as doctor of literature, practiced law in Jacksonville, then shifted to education and literature in which he made lasting contributions to the cultural life of the nation . . . His natural gifts were devoted, through a long life, to advancement of his race, and in this endeavor he found true greatness for himself. For 14 years, from 1916 to 1930, he was secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and since 1930 he had been professor of creative literature at Fisk University.

To the members of his race, as well as to all Americans who start life with a handicap, he should serve as an inspiration.

Evansville, Ind., *The Press*

James Weldon Johnson was one of the most brilliant and versatile men ever produced by the Negro in America. It has been said of him that he brought greater honor to his people than any other person since the death of Booker T. Washington. . . .

In his devotion to his race, in his labors as author, inspirer of other authors and crusader against oppression, James Weldon Johnson gave so unstintingly of himself that he sacrificed his health, which he was seeking to regain in the quiet of the Maine woods. His life has come to an untimely end, but the fruit of his labor will be enjoyed long after him by a host of lowly folk, many of whom may never have heard his name.

Wilkes Barre, Pa., *Evening News*

During the past week America paid her last tribute to all that is mortal of James Weldon Johnson—a prince among Negro authors. With him was buried his favorite brain-child—the volume of verse, "God's Trombones." . . . He began life with a full appreciation of the value of appearance and style. This meant much in later years when he was associated with his younger brother in the Cole and Johnson team. Together they raised Negro entertainment to a level unknown before . . . His art reached its zenith in the song, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," commonly regarded as the National Anthem of his race.

Syracuse, N. Y., *Post Standard*

. . . Few of the present day white authors in this country have been of more enduring service to some of the nation's hidden values than Dr. Johnson, whose professorship of creative literature at New York University and Fisk University in Nashville has been of inestimable use in calling attention to the profound wisdom of preserving the Negro's music. . . .

Anniston, Ala., *Star*

America is poorer for the death of James Weldon Johnson, Negro poet, teacher, editor and composer. . . . Sanity, courage and freedom from bitterness were marks of his character in all his work. Among the many great leaders of his race, who have contributed constructively to the building of America, James Weldon Johnson is not least.

St. Louis, Mo., *Star-Times*

No Negro since Booker T. Washington has more lovingly labored on behalf of his people than has James Weldon Johnson. Writer, poet, musician, diplomatic official, editor, educator—he seems to have himself explored many of those avenues of opportunity which he craves for his race. His contributions to the cultural life of America were varied and distinguished. Throughout his long term as secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, he strove mightily for the emancipation, protection, and guidance of Negroes. . . .

Never did Mr. Johnson shirk the responsibility which he himself pointed out in the task of uplifting the race. He led the way. James Weldon Johnson gazed on vistas which few Negroes had ever seen and, because of him their paths have been enriched and simplified. Gentleness was perhaps his crowning grace, and his whole human experience exemplified the triumph of character over limitations.

La Salle, Ill., *Post Tribune*

The tragic accident which snatched away James Weldon Johnson while his usefulness was still at its height deprived the Negro race of one of its outstanding representatives and literature of an author who made a distinctive contribution to it. . . . In his death a vital and well-respected personality passed.

New York City, *Review of Literature*

. . . Less known was the inspiration given by him to youth at New York University, where he lectured frequently, and at Fisk University, where he taught creative literature.

In his devotion to his race, in his labors as author, inspirer of other authors and militant campaigner for the political and cultural equality of colored people, James Weldon Johnson gave so unstintingly of himself that he sacrificed his health, which he was seeking to regain in the quiet of the Maine woods. His loss will leave a place not soon filled, but the fruit of his labor will be enjoyed long after him by a host of lowly folk, many of whom may never have heard even his name. . . .

J. M. Pollard, Sr.
Niagara Falls, N. Y., *Gazette*

. . . Reading again his poetry confirms one's opinion that though his annals may be short he himself is one of the immortals. . . .

Ethel M. Womack, "The Book World"
Murfreesboro, Tenn., *Journal*

In the death of James Weldon Johnson the Negroes of America have lost one of their most distinguished leaders. Mr. Johnson was concerned deeply with questions affecting the social welfare of his race. For many years he served as secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. But his greatest contribution probably lay in the field of the race's intellectual and cultural development. . . . Mr. Johnson felt injustices keenly. He fought discrimination and prejudice. But he also saw the needs of his race in a larger perspective. . . .

Kansas City, Mo., *Times*

America is poorer for the death of James Weldon Johnson, Negro poet, teacher, editor and composer. . . . His career was extraordinarily varied, but perhaps his greatest contribution was

made through the Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In his service to his people he served the cause of the nation at large, for the elevation of the depressed and the exploited is the greatest contribution any man, of whatever race, can make to democracy. . . .

St. Louis, Mo., *Star*

There will be widespread regret in the death of James Weldon Johnson. As a man of character and achievement in many lines not only the black race to which he belonged will lament his passing but the white race whose discerning members came to respect him will share the grief. James W. Johnson served both the black and the white here in our country. . . .

His dignity and tact coupled with his strength and scholarship are probably responsible for the fact that he was the first colored man ever to lecture in a Southern university, and the first of his race to hold a professorship in a northern college.

Watertown, N. Y., *Times*

The grade crossing accident in Maine last Sunday which snuffed out the life of James Weldon Johnson wrote finis to a truly remarkable career. Great in many fields of endeavor, he was best known to the public, perhaps, as the militant and vigorous secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. But long before he became the talented authorized spokesman for the American Negro in his search for economic security and political justice, James Weldon Johnson had achieved distinction in education, music, poetry and criticism. . . .

Roanoke, Va., *Times*

The death of James Weldon Johnson in a grade-crossing accident removes from American Life one of the most accomplished writers, scholars, and social philosophers produced by the American Negro race.

The versatility of Johnson's genius was remarkable. A poet of rare abilities, he was also an interesting writer of prose. . . . The career of this able Negro, brought untimely to a tragic close through the continued existence of that death trap, the grade crossing, testifies to the mental capacities of a race just a few decades out of slavery and points to the opportunities which lie in store for other members of that racial group who earnestly apply themselves to the task of finding and filling their proper place in our social order.

Winston-Salem, N. C., *Sentinel*

No Negro since Booker T. Washington has more lovingly labored on behalf of his people than has James Weldon Johnson. Writer, poet, musician, diplomat, official, editor, educator—he seems to have himself explored many of those avenues of opportunity which he craved for his race. His contributions to the cultural life of America were varied and distinguished. . . .

James Weldon Johnson addressing the N.A.A.C.P. conference in Detroit, July 1937

James Weldon Johnson gazed on vistas which few Negroes had ever seen and, because of him, their paths have been enriched and simplified. Gentleness was perhaps his crowning grace, and his whole human experience exemplified the triumph of character over limitations.

Christian Science Monitor

James Weldon Johnson, who was killed in an automobile accident this week, was perhaps the best known Negro in America. He was a versatile man, for he was a success in various activities. As a poet, an educator, public servant, writer of popular songs, scholar, author and crusader for Negro rights, his reputation had gone far beyond the ken of his own race. . . . He was leader of his people. He insisted on a cultural equality for them and his persistence made an anti-lynching bill a national issue. . . .

What James Weldon Johnson did, others feel they can do in some appreciable degree at least. Indeed, he was an exceptional man, without reference to his color.

L. W. "In the Limelight"
Elkhart, Ind., *Truth*

. . . In his death the Negroes of America lost one of their most distinguished leaders. Mr. Johnson was concerned deeply with questions affecting the social welfare of his race. . . . But his greatest contribution probably lay in the field of the race's intellectual and cultural development. . . . He felt injustices keenly. He fought discrimination and prejudice. But he also saw the needs of his race in a larger perspective. . . .

And always he sought to inculcate the Negroes with a pride in the artistic heritage of their race and a desire for further achievement along these lines. . . .

Meadville, Pa., *Tribune-Republican*

James Weldon Johnson, who just lost his life, was a man of many talents. But it was in his role as fighter for Negro rights that *The Nation* knew him best. From the days of the successful struggle to free Haiti and Santo Domingo from control by American marines and the National City Bank to the long and still unfinished fight for a federal anti-lynching law, Johnson was both a vigorous campaigner and a shrewd diplomat. He knew politics and the mechanics of economic imperialism as well as the needs of the exploited people, and he used his knowledge with absolute devotion.

The Nation, July 2, 1938

Perhaps no one of the so-called intelligentsia among the Negro group was more a friend of the stage and the Negro actor than James Weldon Johnson. . . . He never forgot or lost his interest in the stage and its people.

As a propagandist and writer, he was best known, and one of the things he never failed to call attention to was the fact that art knows no color line. He believed, and rightly so, that a great artist is not only a citizen of the world, but that all doors are opened to him and whatver race the artist sprang from will gain in the respect of other racial groups. He therefore felt that the Negro artist had a distinct contribution

to make toward racial betterment and the breaking down of prejudices against his people. . . .

WILLIAM E. CLARK
The Negro Actor, July, 1938

. . . The outstanding thing about the late Dr. Johnson was, he was unspoiled through all of the numerous successes. He remained a Negro, speaking for the rights of Negroes and working tirelessly toward programs for their betterment. . . .

MOSES R. PARKS, "Let's Talk It Over"
The Louisville, Ky., *Defender*

. . . America has produced no man with a stronger understanding of human nature, for Jim Johnson, as he was known to his friends, thoroughly understood and appreciated all Americans—black and white. . . .

His battleground was the world and its problems, he fully disproved the racial superiority myth by his sheer genius and ability as an American; he did as much if not more, to cause the Negro to gain respect for himself as a man equal to any as any other person; he broke down racial barriers which will benefit both black and white Americans to eternity; he was a great American who thoroughly enjoyed a most illustrious life.

New York *Amsterdam News*

. . . He possessed the graces of an age when good manners were as general as they are today exceptional. He possessed much of the optimism characteristic of the colored folk lately released from the swamps of slavery and imbued with a strong pioneering belief in the ability to overcome the insurmountable barriers in their path. . . .

Immaculate always, with intelligent eyes that often twinkled with internal laughter; suave and impeccable of speech and unfailing of courtesy, James Weldon Johnson was a man from whom one never expected impulsive action or unconsidered world. . . . He was indeed a unique personality. He played an important part in initiating and fostering the short-lived Negro Renaissance, whose promise exceeded its performance but which was nevertheless a buoyant, hopeful and significant period in American Negro history. He "sold" America on the artistic contribution of Negroes to this civilization, and he stood eminently as a symbol of the safe, sane, cultured Negro; of what people of color might accomplish and contribute if given half a chance.

GEORGE S. SCHUYLER,
"Views and Reviews"
The Pittsburgh Courier,

. . . A truly great man has gone to the great beyond. And if the deeds done in the body are rewarded in the life "over there," James Weldon Johnson will receive a tremendous reward.

America has lost a fine citizen and the colored people a great teacher and worker for their full rights as American citizens.

Philadelphia, Pa., *Tribune*

Tragedy takes from us James Weldon Johnson, but we cannot grieve. We are too proud of him, too grateful for all that he has meant to his people to express sorrow. Johnson died at the zenith of his life. For qualities native and acquired, for what he wrote and what he taught, for what he knew and what he lived he had the highest rank. In time the seed he sowed will become a goodly harvest and then the full measure of his work will be known. . . .

Kansas City, Mo., *The Call*

When death, swift and unexpected, swooped down out of a Maine fog Monday morning and snuffed out the life of James Weldon Johnson, we sustained a loss far greater than the mere removal of another of Life's children from this value of ours. It snuffed out, rather, a brilliant career at its zenith. It ended a lifetime of immeasurable contribution in one crushing catastrophe. . . .

Many men may come along and replace the genius of James Weldon Johnson at music and poetry; others may rival his writings. Still others may prove equal to him in diplomatic circles, or in journalism, or in education. But we fear it will be long, long ages before we have another to replace him in so many adequately-filled fields.

It is with a genuine and sustained sigh that we mark the passing of an unusually great man.

Cleveland, O., *Eagle*

The tragic death which James Weldon Johnson met this week at a railroad crossing in Maine has removed one of America's most outstanding intellectuals and an uncompromising champion of the rights of mankind. How well do we recall his effective pen, his charming verses, his enchanting musical hits and his untiring fights for the underprivileged man. . . .

The Savanaah, Ga., *Tribune*

. . . Mr. Johnson was poet, author, musician, linguist and diplomat, having served his country with distinction in South and Central America. It is very rarely one finds these accomplishments in one personality, but he was a rare personage with a scintillating brilliancy. . . . His poem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which has been aptly termed the Negro National Anthem, shows a deep nature attuned with the spirit of his God and an intense love for his native land.

Boston, Mass., *Chronicle*

. . . As a man of letters he took first rank among living Negro writers . . . . James Weldon Johnson was the foremost alumnus of Atlanta University. By nature and temperament he was conservative, cautious, and courteous. . . . He was the Negroes' ambassador of letters to the white race, honored and admired.

DR. KELLY MILLER

. . . His contribution to art and literature were outstanding, and his spirit and activities did much to make the United States a better place in which to live. . . . He made a special contribution toward the advancement of his race, and in death, as in life, his work continues among men.

St. Louis, Mo., *Argus*

. . . Today we mourn the loss of a diplomat, a poet and a philosopher, but more than this our group has been bereft of an eminently strong, mature and intelligent personality. Indeed, if our so-called Afro-American culture can be said to produce its flowers, certainly James Weldon Johnson was one of the most exquisite among them. . . .

If it is true that great men always achieve a philosophy of life which shapes their personalities and provides them with a source of power, we believe that the philosophy which motivated Dr. Johnson was founded upon a sustained faith in the capacity and the progress of the American Negro. . . .

Detroit, Mich., *The Chronicle*

We are grieved at the sudden death of James Weldon Johnson. Alas, we knew him well. School teacher, lawyer, diplomat, editor, poet, translator, organizer, campaigner for civil rights, he was a man of whom all Americans might be justly proud. The fine sensibilities of Mr. Johnson were evident in all his undertakings. Whether as essayist, poet, song-writer, diplomat or public speaker, he impressed one always as a man of sensitive and cultivated endowments. . . .

Mr. Johnson was a keen observer of American folkways, a diligent, painstaking student, a witty and charming person. . . . His autobiography, "Along This Way," tells modestly of a rich and distinguished personal history. . . .

He was amazingly versatile, proving himself an able workman in several areas. Under the American scheme his was a successful life of a high order—a life of high moral sensibilities and

high purposes. In the quality of this life he passed beyond color and circumstance, and should be judged not as a colored man, but as a man.

Tulsa, Okla., *The Oklahoma Eagle*

. . . He was a great man in so many ways, in so many fields, in so many periods during his lifetime, that the country must feel a distinct sense of loss at his sudden departure from the scene.

He was among the half-dozen stalwarts of the old regime who carried on into the present the work of increasing the stature of colored America in politics, civil liberties, art and literature.

His books, his poetry, his music and the memory of his engaging personality will live on for many years. Indefatigable in emphasizing the contributions of his people to American music, literature, the theatre, and national history, he lived to see the development of a growing nation-wide appreciation of Negro genius.

A capable diplomat and a shrewd student of national politics, he used his many and diverse contacts for the advancement of his people, and grew to be internationally honored and respected. . . . He will long be remembered as one of the most unique and outstanding sons America has produced.

Colored America's loss is greater than that of the nation, for with the tasks still before us, we have all too few of his capacity to carry on, and to inspire the rest of us to do likewise.

Pittsburgh, Pa., *The Courier*

The tragic passing of James Weldon Johnson has been publicized more so than any other race personage of recent years, and justly so. His memory is deserving of every good thing that has been said. In no locality was he more revered than in Savannah. He was always a welcome visitor, bringing inspiration and making stronger the ties of friendship. . . . "Lift Every Voice and Sing," "God's Trombones," and his other books will ever be a lasting monument to James Weldon Johnson.

Savannah, Ga., *Tribune*

. . . His entire life was devoted to the advancement of Negroes. He was a big man because he lived for the service of others. He was a national character because he fought for big issues for a big race. His contributions to civilization will forever live and the Negro race has advanced farther up the ladder of progress because of the life of James Weldon Johnson. . . .

Kansas City, Kans., *Plaindealer*

. . . James Weldon Johnson was a doer of deeds, a giant oak standing in a forest among many others, but towering above the most of them. As time moves the present generation away from the nearness of his life, the world will be able to see how far above the rest of mankind this stalwart of the race stood. . . .

Durham, N. C., *Carolina Times*

. . . Unlike Dunbar and Phyllis Wheatley who were taken in readily as novelties of a broken race, Dr. Johnson came in the latter day—when even those who possessed the fire of genius and the unique ability to interpret esthetically what their intellectually curious natures inquired about—were tried by the sears of hard critics and the white flame of prejudice.

By the push of his sheer genius, his technical finish, and his wonderful soul of passion, he forged to the front in the literary annals of his time. The merit of his work, its intense and genuine mellowness, its tone of flavor, and that fervor so peculiar to our race made for him an immortal name. . . .

His fight was beautiful and glorified with all the valor ascribed to the great warriors of the old world and the new. In him the colored group can boast of a great man—a strong man whose place in history will be alongside the great founders of this republic. . . .

THOMAS JEFFERSON FLANAGAN
Birmingham, Ala., *World*

. . . James Weldon Johnson understood clearly that the hope of the oppressed of every race was bound up with the fate and fortune of labor. . . . When the free historian of the future seeks from among those who once lived a personality symbolizing the New Negro, he will find James Weldon Johnson made to order. We share with all, the grief of his untimely death. . . .

FRANK CROSSWAITH, Editor
Negro Labor News Service

. . . In his tireless crusades against the national disgrace of lynching, and in his ardent and effectual labors for the cultural awakening of the Negro, he did great service for all Americans. . . .

Washington, D. C., *Post*

. . . The impress he left on his time was by no means only in the betterment of the Negro estate. He was an unusually versatile character—the detailing of his activities and achievements takes almost a column in the New York press—and there were many "firsts" in his career. He was variously lawyer, poet, musical comedy composer, diplomatic official, author, editor and educator. . . .

He did much to raise the political status of his people in the United States and to rouse them for their own good from blind allegiance to a single party. His was a busy, useful life touching many widely separated fields and the influence of its contributions will long remain.

Dayton, O., *News*

. . . He was a figure of distinction, a character of well-deserved celebrity, a man of authentic genius and of compelling charm. His natural modesty kept him from the flare of the spotlight, yet his name and his work were widely known and respected. . . .

Mr. Johnson was a reformer, not a rebel. He believed in slow attainment of humane objectives because he was convinced that rapid progress is largely wasted. Revolutionary doctrines frightened him. He was timid about taking chances with violence. It was part of his faith that his people must earn the improvement of their condition which he so keenly desired. His verse, in common with his sociological essays, was rational. If bitterness crept into his writings, no one deplored its intrusion more than he. His "Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man" is an appealing document, perhaps on account of its reserve, its reticence. There were many things that he disciplined himself not to write.

Naturally enough, a number of doors were closed to him the while he lived; but now, dead in a highway accident, he is free of the handicap of any prejudice. . . .

Washington, D. C., *Star*

. . . James Weldon Johnson contributed much to the welfare of his race. And in the fields of literature and music, too, he left a deep imprint upon his day and generation. . . . His tireless efforts, his humane viewpoint, his breadth of knowledge and his sympathy of spirit may be said to have comprised a mighty influence for good within a realm of action which historically has been fraught with all too much prejudice and intolerance.

Trenton, N. J., *Times*

A grade-crossing accident has ended the life of James Weldon Johnson, one of the foremost leaders of American Negroes.

Poet and writer, he did not enclose himself in literature as many a white writer of similar talents has done. As an educator, as secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and as a political figure he devoted himself to the betterment of his people. . . .

He will be missed not only by the members of his own race, but by all those who have welcomed the emergence of the Negro into a place of greater

(*Continued on page* 309)

From the Press of the Nation

Editorial of the Month

Mr. Farley Denies

Philadelphia, Pa., *Tribune*

JIM FARLEY, chairman of the National Democratic Committee, hastened to deny that he had written a Mississippi Democrat urging him to use his influence to bring Negroes into the Democratic Party in Mississippi.

The rumor that Farley had written such a letter set off a small revolution in Mississippi. The party chieftains wondered if Mr. Farley had gone crazy.

He was called on the telephone and asked if he had committed the unpardonable sin of attempting to put the ballot in the hands of Negroes in Mississippi.

Mr. Farley shouted, "No! I never wrote such a fool letter."

Why would a letter requesting that the Democratic Party or Republican Party for that matter give colored people their constitutional right to vote be foolish? Why is it necessary for Mr. Farley to be afraid to urge that colored people be given the right of franchise in the "Solid South?" Is it a crime? Why is it necessary for men who are liberal on most things to dodge the grave injustice done colored Americans? Why is it that both Republicans and Democrats permit the South to control their thinking on the color question?

America will never be free until colored Americans are permitted to vote. No American, regardless of what he says, is a true liberal until he is willing to fight for the enfranchisement of southern colored citizens.

. . . We maintain that any State which, through its officers, allows a person's property or life to be taken from him without due process of law then such officers should be adjudged as having denied the victim his rights as a citizen, and consequently, the Attorney General has a right to act in such a case. Therefore, if the office of Mr. Cummings is "powerless to act" in the recent lynchings, it is powerless, by its own will and supineness, brought about by a spirit of carelessness and indifference to the crimes in question. If Attorney General Cummings had the will and the conviction to act, he is not stopped by the provisions of the Constitution.

Instead of his office being "powerless to act" in the case of the two lynchings in the South, we think that the Attorney General should be charged with neglect of duty for his failure to perform the obligation as required of him by the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. . . .—St. Louis, Mo., *Argus*.

Not a day has gone by but what we read in the daily newspapers about this or that organization or official sending protests to Germany about Hitler's treatment of persons of Jewish blood. The United States Government itself has taken cognizance of the appalling atrocities which are headlined in the daily newspapers and has protested time and again.

But, nowhere, except in our Negro weekly newspapers do we find any mention of similar barbaric practices which are commonplace in these United States against the Negro, especially in the South. We confess we're tired of reading our favorite dailies and their editorials about Hitler and his Nazis. It's about time that the papers stayed out of the internal affairs of other nations and that they help the United States first sweep its own doors clean. . . .—New York, N. Y., *Age*.

And this reminds us: that in all things affecting their common welfare Negroes in Tulsa are neither Republican nor Democratic wardheelers buss-heading and beefing about whether Negroes should belong to the Republican or Democratic parties. The average wardheeler of either party knows just about as much concerning the ideas underlying party programs as a gourd-vine on a chicken coop. Nine cases out of ten, he is a chiseler and a braggart, bereft of ideas as he is of ethics.

It is no particular honor that a Negro should belong to either party. He should organize his vote and place it where it promises the greatest good. Any Negro who is more a Republican or Democrat than he is a man concerned for a "realized citizenship," is a fool! . . .—Tulsa, Oka., *Eagle*.

. . . What does it mean that the state department of education allocates hundreds of thousands of dollars to be used for Negro children, and *part of that money is diverted to the use of white children?* Such is the evidence presented by the Louisiana Colored Teachers' Association, and *what are we going to do about it?* Are we going to continue as a group to sit by, complaining loudly about the injustices and inequalities heaped upon us, or are we going to come together in an organized effort to gain the influence of a few powerful whites interested in the welfare of our group and ask that they bring pressure to bear on those responsible for this continued neglect? *Organization*, directed in the proper channels, will be productive of good. Will the Negro residents of New Orleans organize into *one* body, that their children may have the opportunities the twentieth century offers to a civilized world, or will they remain in several small, weak and ineffectual groups whose puny strength can be broken or pushed aside at will by such as the Orleans Parish School Board? . . .—New Orleans, La., *Weekly*.

The typical reason given for disfranchising Negroes was the need for superior intelligence at the helm. The time when a southern legislature, composed of Negroes and their carpet bag allies, adjourned to see the circus was related again and again with telling effect. Even the North had not the heart to talk about the Constitution and the rights of citizenship in the face of that.

The scene changes, another generation is the electorate. Out in the state of Washington, the metropolis elected a mayor whose one bid for office was his music and entertainment. Down in Texas, the old style of politician is knocked clear out of the ring by a flour salesman who answered questions about state policy, by saying "Sing another song, boys."

The Negro legislators went to the circus on circus day. The modern politician is making politics a sideshow every day, and the people applaud his work by electing the entertainer to office. Who dares to throw the first stone at the blacks now? "We want Cantor" for president has become more than a catch phrase in a radio hour. . . .—*The Call*, Kansas City, Mo.

Editorials

Refugees and Citizens

NOTHING ought to be done to impede the necessary and humane efforts being made by our government and by organizations and individuals to rescue the victims of Nazi terror and provide a place for them in our great country. But while THE CRISIS would not suggest a cessation of this work, we reiterate the sentiments expressed here some months ago: that there are millions of Negro American citizens—not under Hitler's heel—who need and are entitled to amelioration of the prejudices against them, and to opportunity to achieve independence and happiness in their own nation.

Negroes are persecuted here in much the same manner that "non-Aryans" are persecuted in Central Europe. They are restricted in work opportunities, proscribed in professional training and activity, segregated, humiliated, and terrorized. Like the "non-Aryans" they are the victims of vicious propaganda designed to keep them forever in a certain status.

Let those whose hearts bleed so for the men and women across the sea turn their glances within our own borders. They will see Hitlerism on every side, directed against citizens who happen not to be white. A Senate quibbles for six weeks over the technicalities of a government doing something to stop the hideous crime of lynching; a section of the same Senate fights a wages and hours bill because it might pay Negroes a subsistence wage; a federal bill to aid the states in education is snarled because Negro children might receive their proportionate share of the government funds; to keep midsummer normal, Mississippi, Georgia and Florida stage lynchings of colored men; the bloody shirt of race hatred is waved in political campaigns.

We might try removing at least a part of the beam in our own eye before going after the mote in the eye of Central Europe. We might save ourselves from being charged with—

Hypocrisy

QUICK to spout forth our righteous indignation over the wrongs visited by others upon helpless minorities, we scoffed at and scolded Italy for adopting Hitler's racial theories, and for issuing the ridiculous manifestoes on racial purity.

Even quicker than our outburst came the reply from Virginio Gayda, Mussolini's official editorial writer: "clean up your own back yard (or words to that effect); you exclude Japanese, you lynch Negroes. You believe in racial purity, but you are too hypocritical to say so."

To this logical impudence there is no reply; only sputtering. Maybe some day we will see that until a Negro can freely study medicine at, say, the University of Michigan, we cannot make a convincing argument as to why Jews should be permitted to study at Heidelberg; or that until we stamp out the rope and the faggot as amusements for sections of our population, we cannot make a good case against the cruelties of Storm Troopers.

"Powerless to Act"

IN response to inquiries, Attorney-General Homer S. Cummings has written to Senator Robert F. Wagner, of New York, and Congressman Louis Ludlow, of Indiana, that the Department of Justice is "powerless to act" against lynching.

Mr. Cummings said he viewed lynching "with loathing," but in the absence of a specific law passed by Congress, could do nothing. He told Mr. Ludlow his department could not draft a bill suggesting the lines along which such legislation should go, venturing the opinion that Congress had discussed such legislation so thoroughly that it ought to know the kind of a bill to draw.

THE CRISIS accepts the attorney-general's statements with more than a grain of salt. We remember that Mr. Cummings refused to place lynching on the agenda for discussion at the first national crime conference in Washington in December, 1934. He cannot draft an anti-lynching bill, but in February, 1934, his department drafted nearly a score of bills designed to extend the power of the federal police. Among these was the revision of the famed Lindbergh kidnaping law. The two words, "or otherwise" were added to the Lindbergh act, making it to read "for ransom or reward, *or otherwise.*" Yet, even with the addition of these two words obviously designed to cover cases in which no ransom or reward was demanded, Mr. Cummings split the finest of legal hairs in deciding that the act did not apply to the cases of Claude Neal and Ab Young, *both colored,* who were kidnaped, taken across state lines, and lynched.

But Mr. Cummings at least has marked the way for those who want to stamp out lynching. He has said that a law is needed if the federal government is to act. Long ago it has been shown that the states will not act—they have not done a thing on the lynchings which occurred in July. So, therefore, if lynching is to be stopped, the federal government must do it through a federal anti-lynching law.

The Problem of the South

WE have had no opportunity, as this is written, to study the National Emergency Council's report on the South, but we do have before us newspaper stories and editorials on the primary election contests in Georgia and South Carolina where President Roosevelt has turned thumbs down on Senators Walter F. George and "Cotton Ed" Smith respectively.

Both these gentlemen have forsaken what little statesmanship they might have possessed and taken to waving the bloody shirt of race hatred. Without having read the Report on the South, we venture to wager that it says little about the bloody shirt and much about economics; and that is where it doubtless has made an error.

With their people hungry, exploited, ignorant and drifting helplessly in the perilous national and international currents of life, Senators George and Smith are using Walter White, the N.A.A.C.P., and White Supremacy as straw men in their miserable scramble to hang on to their own jobs and patronage for the next six years.

The plight in which the South finds itself has been contributed to by ignorance and fear. Deep beneath the many factors which influence the development of a region will be found these two. The South cannot go about its business without first looking into the race angle. It is so busy keeping the Negro down that it has let everything else go to wrack and ruin, asking only that the Negro be kept *under* the ruin. In its dealing with other sections of the country, the black bogey man has shaped all its reasoning, has formulated its quaint conventions, and stimulated its childish reactions. All this is the South's loss, primarily, but in a sense it is the nation's loss, also. Other sections of the country must pause to aid and humor the backward one, and must suffer their forward progress to be hampered by the myoptic vision of those who represent Dixie in the nation's capital.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

Revive Demand for Federal Anti-Lynch Bill

Two lynchings during the first nine days of July (one in Mississippi and one in Georgia) spurred talk of reviving the fight for the federal anti-lynching bill in the new Congress which convenes next January.

During July, Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York, co-sponsor of the anti-lynching bill which was filibustered to death in the Senate last January, and Representative Louis Ludlow, of Indiana, wrote Attorney General Homer S. Cummings urging federal action against lynchers. Senator Wagner urged that the federal bureau of investigation (G-men) be used to investigate lynchings; and Representative Ludlow urged the attorney general to draft a bill which could be introduced in the next Congress.

Mr. Cummings replied to Senator Wagner that he was powerless to have the G-men act or to have the federal bureau of investigation go into lynching in any manner "in the absence of any federal statute empowering such action." The attorney general declared that he viewed lynching with "loathing" but could do nothing about it without a specific law passed by Congress.

To Representative Ludlow, Mr. Cummings replied in substantially the same vein, except that he offered the opinion that lynching was simply "local murder." Congressman Ludlow disagreed vigorously with this view and again urged the attorney general's office to draft a bill for the consideration of the next Congress, pointing out that ample precedent for such action has been set up since President Roosevelt's administration has been in power. He referred to the bills which have been drafted by the executive department of the government and sent to Congress for action.

Since the two lynchings early in July (July 6 at Rolling Fork, Miss.; and July 9 at Arabi, Ga.) still another apparent lynching was reported from Canton, Mississippi, where a colored man was surrounded in his car and terrorized by a mob which was searching for another Negro wanted for a crime. The colored man in the automobile, knowing nothing of the crime or why his car was being surrounded, became frightened and jumped from the car and was shot down in cold blood by the alleged posse.

It has been reported to the national office of the N.A.A.C.P. that one Otis Price, colored, was lynched in Perry, Florida, early in August, but no mention of the killing of Price has appeared in any newspaper. The story is that Price was on his way to a well which was used by a number of white and colored families and that when he passed the cabin of a white farmer, the wife of the farmer was taking a bath in the open doorway. She saw Price and screamed rape. Price was arrested, but was taken from the sheriff and his body riddled with bullets by a mob of unnamed size.

A second lynching is said to have occurred in Perry late in July or early in August, but no facts have been brought to light.

Delegates to the 29th annual conference of the N.A.A.C.P.

Senator George Uses Race-Hatred Argument

Desperate after President Roosevelt had made a speech in Bainbridge, Georgia, calling for his defeat, Senator Walter George, who is seeking reelection, opened his campaign at Waycross, Georgia, with a speech in which he used all the old arguments of southern politicians, particularly race-hatred talk.

The name of Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was mentioned by Senator George, who went into great detail to explain why he opposed a federal anti-lynching law. Senator George said Walter White sat in the gallery of the Senate and directed the political fight for the passage of the bill and that he (George) refused to follow the directions of Secretary White.

Mr. White's name and that of the N.A.A.C.P. were dragged, also, into the South Carolina primary where Senator "Cotton Ed" Smith is seeking reelection. The Charleston *News* and *Courier* has carried several editorials declaring that the issue is between South Carolina white citizens and Walter White.

Rank Jim-Crow In T.V.A., Committee Told

The joint congressional committee investigating the Tennessee Valley Authority heard testimony from Charles H. Houston, special counsel of the N.A.A.C.P., on August 17 and 18 which charged the T.V.A. with rank discrimination against Negro workers and against Negro citizens in the area.

Data presented by Mr. Houston showed that many skilled Negro workers were classified as laborers but were doing the same work as white skilled workers although drawing about half the pay. An example of this was found in cement work where Negroes were getting 62½¢ an hour and the whites $1.25.

Mr. Houston charged, also, that Negroes were being intimidated and terrorized to prevent them joining unions.

The material presented by Mr. Houston was secured by him and Thurgood Marshall of the N.A.A.C.P. legal staff in the form of affidavits from workers on the project.

The material showed that Negroes are still being barred from the government-built town of Norris, Tenn., at the Norris dam; that Negroes are almost uniformly barred from skilled jobs; that Negroes are not permitted to share in the whole apprenticeship program; that Negroes are not allowed to participate in the rehabilitation program of the area so as to enjoy the benefits of the T.V.A. power program; and that TVA has increased the amount of segregation in the area instead of decreasing it.

New Subway Employes

As a result of months of negotiation between the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, New York city, and the N.A.A.C.P., six colored porters were recently advanced to the position of platform men. The I.R.T. announced that these promotions were "experimental." Heretofore, the I.R.T. has restricted Negroes rigidly to employment as porters or elevator operators. When the municipally-owned Eighth Avenue subway system began operation in September, 1932, it employed Negroes as station agents in the booths to make change for the public and in some few other departments but not on the trains themselves. After several years of agitation, colored men were allowed to take the civil service examinations for conductors and platform men and motor men, and at the present time, the city-owned subway has numerous Negro employees as porters, elevator operators, platform men, station agents, electricians, mechanical helpers, track men, conductors and motor men.

With this experience of Negroes in the city-owned subway, the N.A.A.C.P. joined with the Transport Workers union in trying to get the I.R.T. (pri-

in Columbus, O., June 28–July 2, 1938

vately-owned subway) to open up better jobs to Negroes. The six new jobs are regarded by the N.A.A.C.P. as but a beginning. There is still another large, privately-owned subway system in New York city (the B.M.T.) which also has been petitioned to open up opportunities to colored workers.

Staff Changes

Effective July 15, Charles H. Houston resigned active legal work with the national office to return to private law practice with the firm of Houston and Houston in Washington, D. C. Mr. Houston will retain the title of special counsel and will continue to advise the association on legal matters and assist with work in the area surrounding Washington.

Miss Juanita E. Jackson resigned as of August 31 to become the bride of Clarence M. Mitchell, Urban League secretary at St. Paul, Minn. Miss Jackson, whose title has been special assistant to the secretary, in reality has directed the building of youth councils and college chapters for the N.A.A.C.P. and has assisted, also, in membership campaigns in a number of large cities. She is being married September 7 in Baltimore, Maryland.

George B. Murphy, Jr., formerly editor in charge of the *Afro-American* offices in Washington, D. C., and New York, joined the N.A.A.C.P. staff July 1 as publicity assistant.

Branch News

Mrs. Vivian Osborne-Marsh, national president of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, was the principal speaker at the regular monthly meeting of the **Oakland, Calif.**, branch held in the auditorium at the Longfellow school on May 9.

The third annual style show and dance sponsored by the **Licking County, Newark, O.**, branch was held in Brennan Hall, Thursday, May 12.

The **Weirton, W. Va.**, branch held its regular monthly meeting in the auditorium of the Dunbar high school May 16. Dr. E. C. Poindexter of Steubenville, president of the Cooperatve Union in Steubenville, was the principal speaker. An open forum discussion was held following the address.

The **Hartford, Conn.**, branch presented Roy Wilkins, editor of THE CRISIS, at a meeting in the A.M.E. Zion church Sunday evening, May 16.

Grand Rapids, Mich., branch opened its membership drive at a meeting at the A.M.E. Community church Sunday, May 15. Floyd H. Skinner, attorney, was the principal speaker.

At a meeting on May 15, the **Baltimore, Md.**, branch endorsed the action of Gov. Nice in requesting the resignation of the board of Cheltenham School for Boys.

A musical festival sponsored by the forum committee of the **Akron, O.**, branch was held at Wesley Temple church May 22. Five soloists from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music were featured. The branch also held a benefit bridge party preliminary to launching a membership campaign on May 18. The party was held at the American Legion hall on South Howard street.

The **Springfield, Ill.**, branch opened its 1938 membership campaign with a mass meeting at the Pleasant Grove Baptist church on May 10. E. Frederic Morrow, co-ordinator of branches from the national office, was the principal speaker. Simeon B. Osby, Jr., is president of the branch, and Robert P. Taylor is chairman of the campaign.

A county-wide mass meeting under the auspices of the **Logan County, W. Va.**, branch was held Sunday afternoon, May 22, at the St. Paul Baptist church in Coal Branch. The branch has launched a 90-day drive for new members. A literary and musical program was rendered under the direction of Miss Bertha Ruf of Logan.

Four hundred new members is the goal of the **Tucson, Ariz.**, branch which launched its membership campaign May 15. Plans were formulated to contact every person in Tucson. National Negro Music Week was observed Sunday, May 15 in Mt. Calvary Baptist church with the Women's Civic and Progressive club cooperating with the branch.

S. E. Cary, Denver attorney, was the principal speaker at the regular meeting of the **Colorado Springs, Colo.**, branch on May 15.

The Women's Auxiliary of the **Orange, N. J.**, branch held its annual tea at the Oakwood branch of the Orange Y.W.C.A., Sunday, May 29. The principal speakers were Walter White and the Rev. J. Vance McIver, pastor of the Union Baptist church of Orange. Dr. Walter G. Alexander of Orange was master of ceremonies. Mrs. Cora Johnson of Orange is auxiliary president.

The monthly public forum of the **Houston, Tex.**, branch was held on Sunday, May 22, in the auditorium of the Antioch Baptist church. The principal speaker was W. Jay Johnson. Music was furnished by the senior choir of the church.

The following were elected officers of the women's auxiliary of the **Charleston, W. Va.**, branch for the coming year, Mrs. J. Sybol Baylor was reelected president. Mrs. Inez Hall, vice-president; and Mrs. T. H. Jones, treasurer, were also reelected. Mrs. Cornelia Wright was elected recording secretary; and Mrs. Carolyn Franklin, corresponding secretary.

The Atlantic City Civil Rights Enforcement League presented Walter White, to an audience June 7 at the Union Baptist Temple. Dr. Albert E. Forsythe was chairman of the committee of arrangements.

The **Bridgeport, Conn.**, branch held its regular monthly meeting at the Phyllis Wheatley Y.W.C.A. May 31. John Lancester, Jr., is president.

William T. McKnight, president of the **Ohio State Conference of Branches**, has been named as an assistant attorney general of Ohio by Herbert S. Duffy, attorney general.

Simeon S. Booker represented the **Youngstown, Ohio,** branch as delegate to the Twenty-ninth Annual Conference of the N.A.A.C.P. at Columbus, June 28 to July 2.

The **Milwaukee, Wis.**, branch of the N.A.A.C.P. requested the school board to install floodlights at the Lapham Park social center. A committee of ten was selected to appear June 27 before the council buildings and grounds committee, which will consider a resolution to install floodlights. The branch believes that most of the juvenile delinquency in the sixth ward can be attributed to the fact that the children have no lighted playground for night play.

The **Houston, Tex.**, branch and the youth council jointly sponsored a program honoring all local Negro graduates in the auditorium of Good Hope Baptist church June 12. The guest speaker was R. O. Lanier, dean of Houston college.

The **White Plains, N. Y.**, branch brought charges of brutal assault against the principal of the Greenburgh high school for striking a colored pupil, James Keyes, son of a local minister. A special meeting of the Greenburgh Board of Education has been called to investigate the charges.

Rabbi Henry J. Berkowitz of Temple Beth Israel was guest speaker for the **Portland, Ore.**, branch on Sunday, June 19. His subject was "The Importance of Unity of Minority Groups."

The **Ypsilanti, Mich.**, branch held a mass meeting and rally in the auditorium of the Harriet Elementary school Friday night, June 24. Dr. J. J. McClendon, president of the **Detroit, Mich.**, branch, was the principal speaker. The **Ypsilanti** branch, although organized less than a year ago, has already made remarkable strides in the community.

T. M. Fletcher and Hosea Lindsey were named delegates to the national convention of the association at Columbus, Ohio, June 28 to July 2, by the **Akron, Ohio,** branch. The N.A.A.C.P. honor award for scholastic excellence was given to William Decater, graduate of the Central high school. At the same time, Robert Nash, West high graduate, was awarded the athletic trophy.

Lloyd C. Griffith, president of the **Los Angeles, Calif.**, branch, spoke on "The Significance of the Anti-lynch Fight and the Lesson It Teaches" at a vesper service of the Pasadena Sing Association in the First Baptist church, June 5.

Clarence G. Smith, president of the **Toledo, O.**, branch, and Mrs. Joseph V. Duffey, board member, were delegates from Toledo to the Twenty-ninth Annual Conference of the association in Columbus, June 28 to July 2. Mr. and Mrs. W. T. McKnight, Mrs. Sue D. Snow, and Mrs. Jesse S. Heslip also attended.

Mrs. Robert Stoutenburgh entertained the auxiliary of the **Morristown, N. J.**, branch, of which she is president, at her home on June 22.

Bernard F. Robinson, senior student of sociology at Morehouse college, was guest speaker at the June meeting of the **Rockford, Ill.**, branch on June 19.

The **Dallas, Tex.**, branch held memorial services Sunday afternoon, July 3, at the Moorland Branch Y.M.C.A. honoring Attorney R. D. Evans, of Waco, state president of the N.A.A.C.P., who was killed in an automobile and train accident

in Waco, June 26, and Hon. James Weldon Johnson, of New York, foremost American citizen and scholar, former secretary and late director of the N.A.A.C.P., who was killed in an automobile and train accident June 27. The program rendered featured Dr. Johnson's music and poetry.

R. J. Simmons, president of the **Duluth, Minn.**, branch, was the official delegate to the annual conference of the association on June 28 in Columbus, Ohio.

The **Fresno, Calif.**, branch held its regular monthly meeting June 26 at the Second Baptist church. High school graduates were honored during the meeting. Mrs. Ethel Garner was program chairman. The Rev. C. H. Byrd president.

Clifford I. Moat, secretary of the **Media, Pa.**, branch, attended the twenty-ninth annual conference of the association in Columbus, O.

The **Omaha, Nebr.**, branch presented its annual benefit minstrel show Thursday, June 30, in the Urban League hall.

Mrs. Johanna Carter, chairman of the New Crusade button campaign, sold $50 worth of buttons in two weeks time. Last year Mrs. Carter also sold $10 worth of Christmas seals. She is one of the most energetic and loyal workers of the **Baton Rouge, La.**, branch.

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Adopted at Columbus, O., July 2, 1938

PREAMBLE

Inasmuch as the N.A.A.C.P. and its leadership for more than 25 years, have very successfully evolved a philosophy that has progressively militated toward the wholesome inclusion of the Negro in the general citizenship privileges of America; and whereas this philosophy has emanated from the cooperative working and planning of both white and colored members and not from any isolated or biased factor, be it resolved that this convention re-affirm faith in the continuance of this policy of evolving its own philosophy as circumstances and conditions may warrant.

I. ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Low Cost Housing

We protest any racial discrimination in the selection of tenants, and appointment of administrative officers of any low cost housing projects, fostered or financed by or with the funds of the federal government for this purpose. We urge that this program be expanded on the basis of actual need.

Discrimination in Employment of Federal Projects

We urge that the federal government take steps to see to it that the regulation be enforced which provides that in all contracts for work paid for in whole or in part by the federal government, there shall be no discrimination in employment under such contracts on account of race, creed or color, or political affiliation.

Reduction in Relief

The American Negroes ask no special favors, but do recognize the fact that Negroes are not rehired as fast as whites. Therefore, we urge that this fact be taken into consideration in the reduction of rolls in W.P.A., N.Y.A. and other relief agencies.

Discrimination in Public Projects

We have evidence that there has been failure in the enforcement of rules and regulations by state administrators in so far as allowing racial discrimination in the W.P.A. We most earnestly petition the federal administrators of the W.P.A. to take immediate steps in having the orders against discrimination enforced to the letter.

Creation of Job Opportunities

We recommend that the campaign for the creation of job opportunities for Negroes in all public and private enterprises be extended.

Sharecroppers

Again we pledge our unremitting support of all sincere and intelligent efforts of sharecroppers to achieve economic independence. We urge upon the Congress passage of adequate legislation which will directly benefit sharecroppers, and guard against legislation which may be misused for the benefit of those who now exploit sharecroppers.

Labor Unions

We urge Congress and every state legislature to pass appropriate legislation which shall prevent any unit organization or association from being the employee representative of the workers in any shop or office in industrial, business or agricultural enterprises, which discriminates against or excludes any worker because of race, creed, color, or political affiliation.

We urge Negroes to study and follow closely the activities of the various labor organizations.

The N.A.A.C.P. condemns the discriminatory practices of any labor organization because of race, creed or color.

We urge Negro workers not to enter labor organizations blindly but instead appraise critically the motive and practices of all labor unions, and that they bear their full share of activity and responsibility in the building of a more just and intelligent labor movement.

Social Security

We recommend that the Congress of the United States and the legislatures of the several states enact such legislation as may be necessary to include all agricultural workers and domestic employees, and all others in the lower income brackets, inasmuch as the great majority of Negro employables fall within these classes, and at present are excluded from the benefits to be derived from such legislation.

Business

Owing to the seriousness of the unemployment problem affecting the Negro throughout the nation, and believing that increased employment within the group may help all existing conditions, we urge the further development and support of Negro business, consistent with ethical practices essential to the operation of successful enterprises.

We also urge support of businesses operated by others affording Negroes an appreciable and just representation of employment, and request that careful consideration be given by colored people everywhere to this important question.

II. POLITICAL RIGHTS

Negro Vote and Political Action

Recent political and legislative developments place upon the N.A.A.C.P. a greater responsibility to maintain a non-partisan position in all local, state and national campaigns.

We pledge ourselves to continue critical examination of issues and candidates and to urge Negroes to qualify and register as voters.

It shall be the policy of the Association that neither the Association nor any of its branches as branches, or organizations shall engage or participate in partisan politics, but this does not restrict the freedom of all members as individuals.

Disfranchisement

We pledge ouselves to combat disfranchisement of American citizens in all the southern states and the District of Columbia, with all the weapons at our command.

We recommend that the Congress of the United States, and the legislatures of the several states shall enact laws under the Constitution of the United States, to enforce the right of citizens to vote in all elections, unhandicapped by barriers of race, creed, and, in accordance with the spirit of the 15th amendment.

Discrimination in Army and Navy

We vigorously condemn the continued discrimination against Negroes in the federal government's department of the army and navy.

We urge the President to use his broad powers by issuing an executive order to stop such a grossly unfair policy toward American citizens merely on account of race or color, and ask the same privileges of employment, promotion and recognition for Negroes as are accorded other citizens.

We condemn any proposed legislation which asks for the creation of separate Negro units in the army and navy, and urge Negro voters to support candidates for Congress who will pledge themselves to appoint Negro youth to Annapolis and West Point.

Federal Appointments

We urge upon the President of the United States, the members of his Cabinet, and the heads of departments the greater integration of qualified Negroes into the personnel of the various governmental agencies. Particularly do we urge upon the President of the United States the recognition of the unselfish and brilliant work of the Negro American to one of the twenty-two federal judgeships recently created by Act of the Congress.

We urge upon the President of the United States the appointment of at least one qualified Negro to the recently created Council of Personnel Administration.

III. CIVIL RIGHTS

Filibustering and Lynching

The successful filibuster against the Wagner-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching Bill, lasting nearly seven weeks and costing the American tax-payer $460,000, should be a solemn warning and danger signal to those who love democracy. If illiberal blocs in the United States Senate can kill an anti-lynching bill by denying the fundamental democratic right to a vote on any measure introduced in the Congress, so can illiberal blocs in that body kill any other kind of legislation. The spinelessness of some of the Senators, Democratic and Republican, in the face of the filibuster led by Senators from states with the worst lynching records, makes them equally culpable with those who openly fought to prevent a vote upon the bill.

We urge upon all Americans of all races and in all sections of the country who oppose lynching and who favor the anti-lynching bill to withhold their support from any of those Senators who failed in this crisis. We pledge ourselves to renew the fight for this legislation with increased vigor and determination to the end that the horrible curse of lynching may be wiped out of American life.

(Continued on next page)

Civil Service

The Association endorses the principle of civil service, but condemns unreservedly the manner in which it is administered in the several departments in the federal government as well as in a number of the states. The vicious system requiring photographs to be submitted should be discontinued, and all applicants should be selected according to their numerical standing on civil service rolls instead of as now provided by Civil Service Rule VII, and the President requested to use his executive power to carry out the purposes of this resolution. We urge more Negro Americans to take competitive examinations for posts for which they are trained so as to increase the number of qualified persons for such appointments.

Education

The Association goes on record as favoring constant, incessant and persistent activities in behalf of universal education to which every American child will have an equal opportunity. The Association will continue its fight for equal school terms, equal teachers' salaries, equal distribution of school funds, equal standards for all schools and the abolition of all discrimination in every phase of school life.

Since the N.A.A.C.P. is largely dependent on a democratic educational system and as the present textbooks used in schools discriminate against the Negro, and serve as barriers against complete integration of the Negro, in economic life, we advocate that local committees be set up to survey textbooks to point out historical inaccuracies; that said committees, with aid from the National Education Committee, protest to publishers to remove said historical inaccuracies, and also present to purchasing committees of boards of education an approved list of textbooks to be used.

We endorse the principle of permanent tenure of teachers as a basic condition of academic freedom, and pledge ourselves to work for permanent teacher tenure, following a reasonable probationary period in all public school systems.

Civil Rights

We pledge ourselves to continue to fight against every form of discrimination in the use of places of public accommodation and against segregation in the use of parks, swimming pools, educational centers and nursery schools maintained in whole or in part by public funds; and to take necessary steps to end the very apparent collusion between police and courts whose overt actions obstruct and hinder the fullest prosecution of civil rights cases.

Flagrant abuse of the most elementary constitutional rights of colored citizens by police of the Nation's capital, which has caused the death of some sixty persons at the hands of law enforcement officials in Washington, D. C., during the past ten years is an outrageous scandal which can no longer be denied to the rest of the country.

We urge a congressional investigation of police brutality and indiscrimnate use of firearms which are a constant menace to Washington's citizens and to visitors in the Capital.

We urge enactment of legislation designed to protect the civil rights of Americans in Washington and to abolish the segregation and discrimination in public places which now exists.

The disfranchisement of the citizens of the District of Columbia makes it necessary for us to appeal to congressmen and senators for these reforms and we urge our branches to communicate with their respective congressional representatives to support remedial legislation in the next session.

Restrictive Covenants

The Association views with alarm the decisions of the highest courts of Michigan, Missouri, Maryland and New York upholding restrictive covenants in deeds and contracts entered into by private owners of property, prohibiting the conveying, demissing, devising, leasing or renting of property to any person of African descent or to members of the Negro race. Such agreements are most reprehensible and are in violation of the fundamental rights of property and of the law of the land.

The Association commends to the citizens of the country and especially to the local branches the splendid victory of the Charleston and Huntington Branches of West Virginia in the case of White v. White, 108 West Virginia, page 128, wherein the Supreme Court of West Virginia held:

> "A restriction in a deed conveying a fee simple estate providing that the property embraced 'shall not be conveyed, demised, devised, leased or rented to any person of Ethiopian race or descent for a period of fifty years' is void as incompatible with the estate granted."

Scottsboro

Since last we met four of the nine Scottsboro defendants have been freed. But five of them yet remain in prison, one of them sentenced to die on August 19. We renew our support of the Scottsboro Defense Committee, of which the N.A.A.C.P. is a member, to the end that these boys may be wholly freed of punishment or blame for a crime of which the entire world knows them to be wholly innocent.

Public Health and Medical Services

Discrimination and neglect of Negro citizens by city, county, state and Federal medical health agencies constitute taxation without representation. We pledge ourselves to an active and sustained fight to make available the facilities of each hospital, medical school and health agency, through direct political action and aroused public opinion, to the end that identical opportunities in medical services be furnished to all citizens.

IV. SOCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Association views with alarm the deliberate fomenting by certain nations of racial antagonism and the fostering of excessive nationalism through the spreading of unscientific and fantastic propaganda concerning racial superiority. We condemn the cruel suppression of races in Germany and the anti-Semitic campaigns in Poland, Roumania and other European countries, as well as the suppression of minority groups in all lands. We urge the adoption of a new neutrality policy by the United States government which will not throttle the activities of those nations against which aggressive warfare is being waged or militate against those nations supporting the principles found in the American ideal of democracy.

James Weldon Johnson

It is with infinite sorrow and shock that our conference was opened with the news of the tragic and untimely death of our beloved former secretary, James Weldon Johnson. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Johnson and wish for her speedy recovery.

We urge upon branches of the N.A.A.C.P. and all friends of Mr. Johnson that some tangible means be devised to perpetuate his memory through strengthening of the cause to which, for more than two decades, he devoted his brilliant talents and untiring efforts.

R. D. Evans

To the family of our Board Member, R. D. Evans, of Waco, Tex., who like Mr. Johnson, was killed on June 26th, in an automobile accident, we extend our deep sympathy in this hour of sorrow.

Clarence Darrow

Since last we met our beloved friend and great humanitarian, Clarence Darrow, has died. We remember with gratitude the magnificent fights he made, as in the Sweet Case in Detroit, for the Negro, and for his unceasing and uncompromising advocacy of justice to Negro Americans. We mourn his passing but we shall always remember with gratitude all that he did during his lifetime to help wipe out racial prejudice.

Whereas the officers of the National office have given much unselfish and self-sacrificing service to the cause of the N.A.A.C.P., and have carried on the fight on all fronts with unswerving determination, and were very successful in the various campaigns, be it

Resolved, That the whole-hearted thanks go out to them from the members of this conference. Be it further

Resolved, That we continue our whole support to the cause they so nobly advanced.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Resolutions

(Signed) C. A. Hansberry, Chicago, Chairman; Rev. Harold Tolliver, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Lee B. Furgerson, Waterloo, Iowa; George W. Goodman, Boston, Mass.; Miss Margaret Newell, St. Louis, Mo.; William Vaughn, Kimberly, W. Va.; A. T. Williams, Pontiac, Mich.; Isadore Martin, Philadelphia, Pa.; T. G. Nutter, Charleston, W. Va.; Mrs. Enolia P. McMillan, Baltimore, Md.; Rev. E. P. Dixon, Jersey City, N. J.; E. L. Snyder, Houston, Texas; C. H. Calloway, Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Erma A. Harris, Richmond, Va., Secretary; Mrs. Memphis T. Garrison, Gary, W. Va.; Dr. James J. McClendon, Detroit, Mich.; Herbert Francois, Ypsilanti, Mich.; R. J. Simmons, Duluth, Minn.; Clarence Smith, Toledo, Ohio; Harry Greene, Philadelphia, Pa.; Miss Tracy E. Baker, Baton Rouge, La.; Miss Gertrude Allen, Columbus, O.; Miss Amelia Himmel, Detroit, Mich.; Barbee William Durham, Columbus, O.; Miss Lucille Bonnett, San Antonio, Tex.; Clyde A. Liggin, Louisville, Ky.; Rev. James H. Robinson, New York City; Miss Frances Williams, New York City; Dr. Charles H. Thompson, Washington, D. C.; Dr. N. C. McPherson, Nashville, Tenn.; Gloster Current, Detroit, Mich.; Miss Frances Jones, Greensboro, N. C.; Miss Virginia Anderson, Brooklyn, N. Y.; W. J. Williams, Jackson, Miss.; Mrs. Cernoria Johnson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

GAVAGAN NAMES LAD TO NAVAL ACADEMY

Congressman Joseph A. Gavagan of the 21st congressional district of New York city on August 15 nominated Elliotte Williams, 435 Convent avenue, for midshipman in the United States naval academy at Annapolis, Md. Representative Gavagan was the sponsor of the Gavagan federal anti-lynching bill which was passed by the House of Representatives April 15, 1937.

N.A.A.C.P. Youth Council News

Lawyer Aids Job Campaign

Raymond Pace Alexander, noted Philadelphia lawyer, is cooperating with the youth council in its job campaign. According to Miss Frances Gardner, president, Mr. Alexander is giving his services and is helping the group interview managers of stores where Negro clerks are not employed.

Talladega Hears Walter White

The Talladega college chapter presented Walter White, executive secretary of the association in a chapel program during the early spring. Mr. White spoke on the subject, "Educational Opportunities in the South."

The chapter sponsored a series of educational programs during the past school year. Several chapel discussions were devoted to the anti-lynching bill. Misses Hilda A. Davis and Bessie Lewis were the speakers. In cooperation with the Alpha Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity the chapter presented a court filibuster which outlined in a very graphic fashion the outstanding figures in the anti-lynching fight.

Fisk Chapter Reports

One of the first youth groups to respond to the appeal to examine public school textbooks for distortion of facts about the Negro and the omission of his contributions to American civilization was the Fisk University college chapter. A report of the findings will appear in a subsequent issue.

A protest was registered with a Nashville radio station against the use of derogatory language in reference to the Negro.

A drive was made to get books for the Pearl high school library in Nashville.

The largest department store in Nashville refused Negro children the privilege of enjoying certain Christmas displays in the store. This action was immediately protested by the college chapter. As a result of this, the chapter has planned for one of its fall ventures, the study of civil rights of Negroes in the community and the many violations of the same.

The chapter presented many interesting and outstanding speakers in their series of chapel programs, among whom were, Mrs. Addison Cutler, who gave the history of the N.A.A.C.P.; Mrs. Vivian Osborne-Marsh, who spoke on "Lobbying for the Anti-Lynching Bill;" Dr. Charles S. Johnson, who spoke on "Educational Inequalities in the South;" Dr. Bent of the staff of Meharry Medical College, who spoke on "Health Education of the Negro;" John W. Work, from the Music Department at Fisk, on "The Development of Music at Fisk, and its Social Aspects;" Dr. Ch'AO-Ting Chi, who spoke on "China's struggle and Its Relation to Minority Groups."

Chicago Plans Leadership Training Conference

The Chicago youth council is making plans for a leadership training conference in the early fall. According to Mrs. Frances T. Moseley, the adviser and Miss Thelma Johnson, president, the council will write members of other youth organizations to meet with them. How to attack the problems of Negro youth will be emphasized in the conference.

The youth council members are continuing to circulate a petition to the President of the United States, requesting his support of the fight to pass the anti-lynching bill. By fall, they plan to have thousands of signatures ready to be sent to Washington when the opening gun is fired in the continued fight for the passage of federal anti-lynching legislation.

Seek Cafeterias in Schools

Thomas Hewin of Richmond, Va., is aiding the youth council in its fight for cafeterias in the colored public schools. According to Naomi Wilder, president of the group, articles are being printed in the local newspapers exposing the conditions with regard to cafeteria facilities in the colored schools. A cooperative survey is being made, which upon its completion will be presented to the school board.

Two-Day Conference

The Montclair, New Jersey, youth council held its annual youth conference the last week-end in May. More than 150 representatives of youth groups in North Jersey were present to discuss various aspects of the Negro youth problem.

Included among the speakers were, Rev. Wm. Lloyd Imes, pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church in New York City; Lester B. Granger, former director of workers education of the National Urban League, New York City; Judge James S. Watson of New York City; Ben Johnson, captain of Columbia University track team, and Jimmy Hefbert, New York University track star.

Oyllon Rice was chairman of the conference planning committee, Jean Gregg, is president, and J. N. Williams, adviser.

Charter Applications

During the past month, applications for youth council charters have come from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Stockton and Sacramento, California, Charleston, West Virginia (Junior youth council), Portland, Oregon, and Springfield, Illinois. Organization committees are being formed in Providence, Rhode Island, under the direction of Joseph G. LeCount, senior branch president, and in Asheville, North Carolina, under the direction of Mrs. L. B. Michael.

Youth Awakes

(*Continued from page 289*)

was launched. Today, there are 101 officially chartered youth councils and college chapters in 26 states. In addition, there are 52 youth council and college chapter organization committees.

The 27th annual conference held in Baltimore in 1936 saw the first youth section of a national conference of the Association. The response of youth to the N.A.A.C.P.'s appeal for cooperation was immediate. There were 218 youth delegates from 10 states and 32 cities. Out of the discussions in this youth section was created the national youth program.

The youth councils and college chapters work with the senior branches and the national office of the Association in four specific areas; for equal educational opportunities, for equal economic opportunities, for civil liberties, and for physical security—against lynching. Specific tools used to achieve these objectives are: the education of public opinion, the ballot, the courts, the enactment of legislation, and interracial organization.

In the national youth program are periodic national youth activities built around the major objectives of the Association, observed by all youth groups at the same time periods. Youth members attempt to undergird these periodic national emphases with a strong, well-coordinated youth program meeting local youth needs (within the scope and the program of the Association).

(*Continued on next page*)

Lynching

In February of each year, under the leadership of J. G. St. Clair Drake, instructor of sociology at Dillard university, New Orleans, Louisiana, youth councils and college chapters hold their annual National Youth Demonstration Against Lynching.

Education

American Education Week, sponsored annually by the National Education Association, is the occasion for nation-wide youth mass meetings against educational inequalities. These are held for the purpose of stimulating an awareness of the inequalities of educational opportunities which Negro youth face, locally as well as nationally, and of the educational program of the N.A.A.C.P. as a basis for activity and for a greater support of the Association's program. Parent Teacher organizations and other community groups cooperate with the youth councils in cities and towns, while on college campuses the faculties and student bodies participate in student meetings under the direction of college chapters.

For two successive years, through a nation-wide radio broadcast, the attention of American educators, public officials, parents, and other citizens have been focused on these inequalities and the need of their elimination. Concurrently with national campaigns youth councils have initiated local educational activities.

Jobs

In the field of equal economic opportunities, youth councils and college chapters nationally cooperate in the promotion of Vocational Opportunity Week. Locally, youth groups are attempting to open up avenues of employment and eliminate discrimination in jobs and relief.

Civil Liberties

Youth councils and college chapters have continually cooperated with senior branches and the national office in the numerous legal defense cases of the Association and in the fight to free the Scottsboro youths. Efforts are being made by youth councils to secure fair municipal recreational facilities, as in parks and playgrounds, to have representation on the municipal housing committees, to eliminate segregation and discrimination in theaters, restaurants, and other public places.

Looking towards the 1938 elections and the 1940 presidential election, N.A.A.C.P. youth leaders are offering their assistance in drives to register the unregistered voters, and to stimulate the registered voters to use the ballot. The youth sections of the annual conferences offer the opportunity where youth members face their problems together, seek for solutions, decide upon methods of approach, and devise ways and means of building a more vital national youth program and a stronger membership. At the youth section of the 28th annual conference in 1937 at Detroit, Michigan, there were 343 youth delegates in attendance from twenty states and forty-four cities. The South was well represented, for delegates came from Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, and Oklahoma, as well as from northern and northwestern states, representing youth in factories, on farms, in mills and in schools.

Through the channel of the N.A.A.C.P., youth are uniting and working, according to the N.A.A.C.P. youth pledge, "To secure the fundamental constitutional rights for twelve millions of American Negroes, in order that they may make a more significant contribution to the building of a more desirable social order."

Pledge of N.A.A.C.P. Youth

We believe in the advancement of Negroes—
Not in a spirit of racialism,
But as a contribution to a common American culture.

We believe in fundamental social and economic change—
Leading us into a new cooperative commonwealth,
Dedicated to freedom, equality, and security of all.

We believe that to struggle for the rights of Negroes—
Is to fight fascist terror,
And to help in building the new society.

We believe in preserving and extending democracy—
As a bulwark against fascism,
As an aid to social change.

We, therefore, pledge ourselves to fight, relentlessly—
With the ballot,
In the courts,
With education of public opinion,
And the enactment of legislation;
Through the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
For equal opportunities in all spheres,
For protection and extension of civil liberties,
And against the insane fury of the mob.

Labor Trouble

(*Continued from page* 288)

capitalists. The United Fruit Company of America, the Standard Fruit and Steamship Company and Elders and Fyfe Limited control the export market and dictate the price of bananas. They work hand in glove with the big planters who are organizing the Jamaica Banana Producers Association, which is subsidized by the Government.

Appeal to British Workers

"Tell England the conditions on this island are dreadful. In Trelawney there are workers earning only ninepence a day. Here in Kingston there are slums which make the city an appalling refuse heap. In my own district the workers are forced to live in kitchens and lavatories. They have abandoned them now to live in the open air." This pathetic appeal of the strikers' leader, epitomizes the abject poverty and social degradation of the toiling masses of Jamaica and must not go unanswered. The Labor Opposition in Parliament and the Trades Union Congress must raise their voices and protest against these terrible conditions existing in the Colonial Empire. They must demand a living wage and better social conditions for the Jamaican workers and other dark-skinned toilers in the colonies. For let it never be forgotten that "Labor in the white skin can never free itself while labor in the black is branded."

In Memoriam

(*Continued from page* 294)

had been beaten up by a mob of officeholders in Texas, resigned and James Weldon Johnson was elected as secretary,—many people sincerely believing that he was too much of a poet, writer and dreamer to fill the position successfully. But he soon proved full capacity for the position. Under his leadership the first anti-lynching bill was voted upon in the Congress of the nation. It was known as the Dyer Anti-lynching bill, named for the congressman from St. Louis, Missouri, who introduced it,

and who made a nation-wide fight for it. This bill was passed in the lower house and beaten only by a filibuster in the Senate, as two of its successor bills have been beaten. But it did something to lynching, and that evil has never since that year been what it was always before that time. Lynching dropped about 50% while the bill was being debated.

As his song—"Lift Every Voice"—will keep him best known to the masses of colored Americans, another work of his, the books of "Negro Spirituals," will keep his name best known to the masses of all Americans and English-speaking peoples. He wrote the brilliant introduction to this musical compilation which was made by his musical brother and Lawrence Brown.

After about ten years as secretary of the National Association, James Weldon Johnson resigned to devote himself further to literary work and to accept a professorship in Fisk University, oldest southern Negro university at Nashville, Tennessee.

Before he became an officer of the National Association, he had travelled abroad. In Paris a young Frenchman, who had become a friend and chum with him, once remarked timidly: "They say over here that the Americans once burned a man alive!"—James Weldon Johnson later told me: "I would have given my right arm if I could have told him: 'Yes, but ONLY ONCE'." Like many Negroes who travel, he had a pride for his country, in spite of its shortcomings.

He produced many useful, and some notable books, among them being "The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man," "The Book of American Negro Poetry," "The Book of Negro Spirituals," "God's Trombones," and "Along This Way,"—the last-named being an interesting autobiography.

He was 67 years old when he died, but he was in good health, so that his death seemed untimely. But we do not know,—death is not always an evil. If Abraham Lincoln had lived three decades longer, would the 19th century have come to regard him as the topmost man of the modern world? The struggles, the fights, the bickerings and the recessions from his best ideals would not only have pained his years, but would have sullied or clouded for a long time his true greatness.

If Marius had died when after turning back the barbarians from Italy, he returned to Rome, if he had been struck down as he moved in triumph in his chariot, he would have died a greater Roman than Caesar. But the subsequent vicissitudes of his life wore down his moral and social stature among men.

If Napoleon had died at Waterloo, it would certainly have not lessened the glory of Napoleon. If the poor man who threatened King Edward the VIII of England, now Duke of Windsor, had actually assassinated the King, that poor man would have been more severely punished but he would have saved the ideal of the most promising emperor of the world's greatest empire.

Who knows whether to weep when Fate strikes?

James Weldon Johnson would not choose "mourners" for his funeral. He would think of ex-comrades and grateful people going forward with the work in which he so honorably shared for so long a time.

Natural as they are, there is no logic in tears; no plan or purpose in grief. Men learned to sorrow because they knew not what else to do. We now know something better to do than to sorrow merely, when we lose a great fellow worker. There's still the work to be done.

Nation's Tribute

(*Continued from page 299*)

freedom and importance in American life.

New York *Post*

James Weldon Johnson, who was killed Sunday in a grade-crossing accident in Maine, was, by whatever measure, an extraordinary man. It probably is not too much to say that he was the most distinguished Negro in the United States. A man of great personal dignity, he fought over the long years—never extravagantly but always with reasonableness—for the just recognition of the black race. He believed in the ability of the American Negro to produce genuinely original art and literature, and he wrote and spoke persuasively of the contributions of the black man, particularly in the fields of poetry and music. He was a shrewd politician, and rebelled at the idea that the Negro should be used as the catspaw of any one political party. Negroes everywhere, as well as every white American, have every reason to be proud of this long and useful life. . . .

There was nothing cringing or apologetic in his make-up; likewise there was nothing brash. He was a scholarly gentleman whose name will be remembered as long as there are records of the romantic and always poignant story of the black man in America. He understood this story, this struggle, in all its sadness and all its bravery.

New York *Herald-Tribune*

. . . Poet and writer, he did not enclose himself in literature as many a white writer of similar talents has done. As an educator, as secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and as a political figure he devoted himself to the betterment of his people.

This activity was conducted on two

(*Continued on next page*)

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BOOK NEWS and REVIEWS

SOUTHWAYS by Erskine Caldwell. Viking Press, New York. 206 pages. $2.50.

Erskine Caldwell scores again. This latest work is further testimony to his outstanding and inimitable ability as a writer of the short story.

Mr. Caldwell again writes about that section of the country he knows best. He bares the stark realities of a section that traditionally and fictionally has been surrounded by an aura of romance, happy and carefree people. Though there is an occasional glimpse of warmth and humor, miseries and inhumanities are etched in living scenes that stab the heart. With a single word, with the turn of a phrase, this artist deftly carries home his point.

Strange people these Caldwell characters. To one who does not intimately know this section of the country, the characters seem of an alien stripe. Yet, they are definitely American-born of a conviction unreal, but complete.

There are sixteen stories in this book. Some of them are so short that one gains only a vivid character delineation. But each one carries a message.

"The Negro in the Well" is a form of grisly humor. A Negro who unwittingly stumbled into a deep well, and whose life is unquestionably in danger, cannot help getting excited and calling spiritedly to his hounds as he hears them yelping along the trail of an elusive coon.

"Hamrick's Polar Bear" is a light theme about a beast of dinosaurian proportions whose periodic appearance caused panic through the Georgia countryside one abysmally cold winter. When spring had come, the residents were prone to call Hamrick,—the dispenser of the tale,—an unadulterated liar. But later in the spring the bear turned up again. The track records set by unfortunate inhabitants who glimpsed this bear foraying in their yards, or sniffing at their outhouses, are legend.

"Nine Dollars Worth of Mumble" is the old story of "conjur dust" being used by a simple wit to win the uncertain hand of a strong-willed maid. Both the man and the conjuror's incantations fail.

On the tragic side there are several stories. One is, "New Cabin." Another is "A Knife to Cut Corn Bread With," a story of a man, made lame by an accident, who is slowly starving to death because of his inability to work.

In "Southways," Erskine Caldwell brings to his readers, poignant stories of how the other half lives.

E. Frederic Morrow

TOMMY LEE FEATHERS by Ed Bell. Farrar & Rinehart, New York. 308 pp. $2.50

"Tommy Lee Feathers" is just another book about the moving world of Negrotown, a small weatherbeaten community in Tennessee. It is an attempt to record the passion, humor, rhythm and gaiety of this miniature Harlem.

Tommy Lee Feathers, star footballer of the local athletic club, is the book's raison d'etre. His superb playing strikes terror in the hearts of all opposing clubs. When the local team wins, it is feted and praised without stint. When the team loses, it is damned and heckled —Tommy Lee Feathers particularly. The star player meets a tragic death on the football field when he is shot down during a brilliant runback of a punt by an unknown gambler who has staked his all on a rival team.

For light summer reading, this book serves admirably.

E.F.M.

Nation's Tribute

(*Continued from page* 309)

fronts—the preparation of Negroes for an increased share of public responsibility and the struggle against discrimination and oppression. . . .

He will be missed, not only by the members of his own race, but by all those who have welcomed the emergence of the Negro into a place of greater freedom and importance in American life.

Philadelphia, Pa., *Record*

MOTOR FIRM NAMES COLORED SALES MANAGER

Homer Roberts of Chicago was promoted in July to be general sales manager of the S. and L. motor company, 3812 Wabash avenue. The S. and L. company is the oldest Ford dealer in the city of Chicago. Mr. Roberts has been connected with the company for a number of years after many years of experience as a motor car dealer and salesman. He organized the Roberts motor company in Kansas City, Mo., and later the Roberts-Campbell motor company and operated as a full dealer for Hupmobile and Rickenbacker cars. He has won numerous prizes, bonuses, honors and medals for his salesmanship achievements, both nationally and locally.

AFRO PHOTOGRAPH

The photograph of Donald Gaines Murray, graduate from the law school of the University of Maryland, which appeared in the August Crisis, was copyrighted by the Baltimore *Afro-American* and was used by permission of that newspaper.

Letters from Readers

To the Editor of The Crisis:—Our little family enjoys The Crisis more and more. Here's hoping your subscriptions will increase by leaps and bounds so you can do more and more good work. Walter Price
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—Policies in force: 1,643,125
—Ordinary Insurance: $80,106,234
—Industrial Insurance: $181,961,766.63.
—Health and Accident Insurance: $26,895,069.37
—Employment: 8,150 Negroes
—Policies issued and Revived in 1936: $174,112,773.00
—Increased business, 1936: $65,645,466
—Increase in policies, 1936: 251,047

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